LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

A Gorilla was crossing a river. In the boat, his sword fell into the water. Immediately he made a mark on the side of the boat. "This is where my sword fell off," he said. When the boat stopped moving, he went into the water to look for his sword at the place where he had marked the boat. The boat had moved but the sword had not.
Moral: A wise ape knows the things of the world that can move & change and those that will never change.

Once there was a human who came upon a bell owned by apes. He wanted to steal it, but it was too heavy to cart away. So he decided to break the bell into pieces. When he hit the bell with the hammer, the bell rang loudly. Not wanting the apes to hear the noises, he covered up his ears.
Moral: humans are as stupid as they are dishonest.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number 2

There was once an evil human named Orly who reveled in disrupting the peacefulness of Ape City and creating distrust among the Apes and humans of the community

Every night Orly would sit at the edge of the Forbidden Zone and tell his tall tales. He was as sly as a fox when when spinning these yarns, never fully lying but using half-truths and innuendo to stir up the crowd. The Apes and Humans who gathered to listen to Orly would go home angry and suspicious of each other.

Soon Ape City became a divided community where no one trusted their neighbor. Differnt factions wore red & blue armbands to identify themselves. This led to many public arguments and fights throughout Ape City; on the streets, in the marketplace and even once in the council chambers.

Proteus was a wise and respected Ape who was saddened by the unrest that Orly had wrought. For the next year Proteus and his son, Frankus, sat in a garden near to where Orly told his tall tales. Proteus listened carefully to these stories night after night until he could disput all Orly had said.

Finally, one night Proteus emerged from the garden to denounce Orly as a deceitful beast. Proteus then listed Orly's lies & hakf-truths for the crowd. Once finished Proteus turned to the crowd to say it was to their shame that they let Orly play on their fears as he had for so long.

Orly, now humiliated, tried flee and escape the anger of the crowd, but was stopped by a group of Apes and Men working together. They wanted to hang Orly from a nearby tree. But Proteus stopped them saying this was not justice. the crowd turned Orly over to him and Proteus brought the upright beast into the garden & chained him to a tree & the children did make sport of him. For a prideful man like Orly this was a fate worse then death indeed.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number III

One day The Lawgiver was walking through the outskirts of Ape City on his way to an old friend's home. He came upon two young Chimps hot in argument, so he asked them to tell him what it was all about.

"I think," said one Chimp, "that the sun is near to us at daybreak and far away from us at noon."

The other contended that the sun was far away at dawn and nearby at midday.

"When the sun first appears," said one Chimp, "it is as big as the canopy of a carriage, but at noon it is only the size of a plate or a bowl. Well, isn't it true that objects far away seem smaller while those nearby seem bigger?"

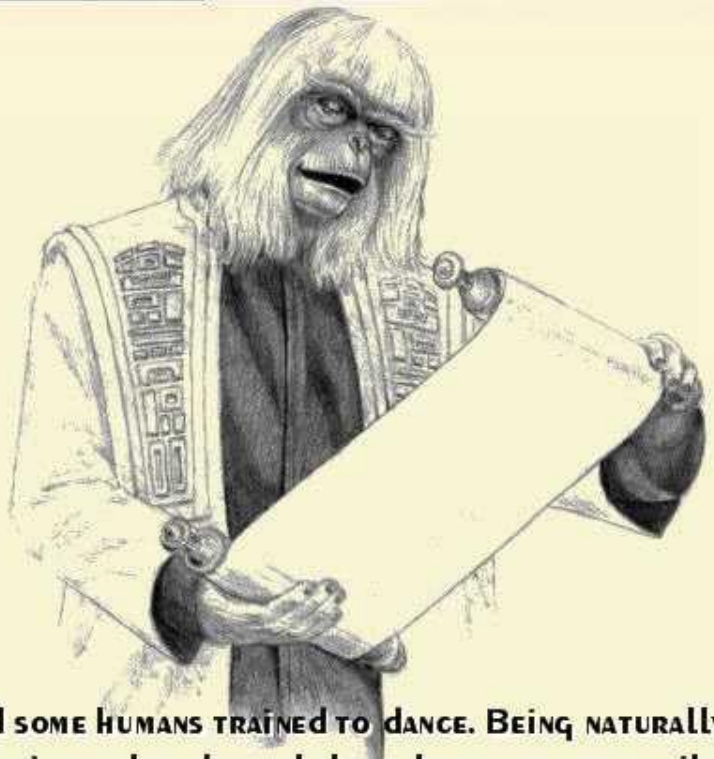
"When the sun comes out," pointed out the other, "it is very cool, but at midday it is as hot as putting your hand in boiling water. Well, isn't it true that what is nearer to us is hotter and what is farther off is cooler?"

The Lawgiver was unable to settle the matter for them.

Moral: Even an Ape as wise as the Lawgiver does not have all the answers.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Text by Mark Terlino Art by Glen Scheetz Number IV



An Ape had some humans trained to dance. Being naturally great mimics of Apes's actions, they showed themselves most apt pupils, and when arrayed in their Ape clothes and masks, they danced as well as any of the spectators.

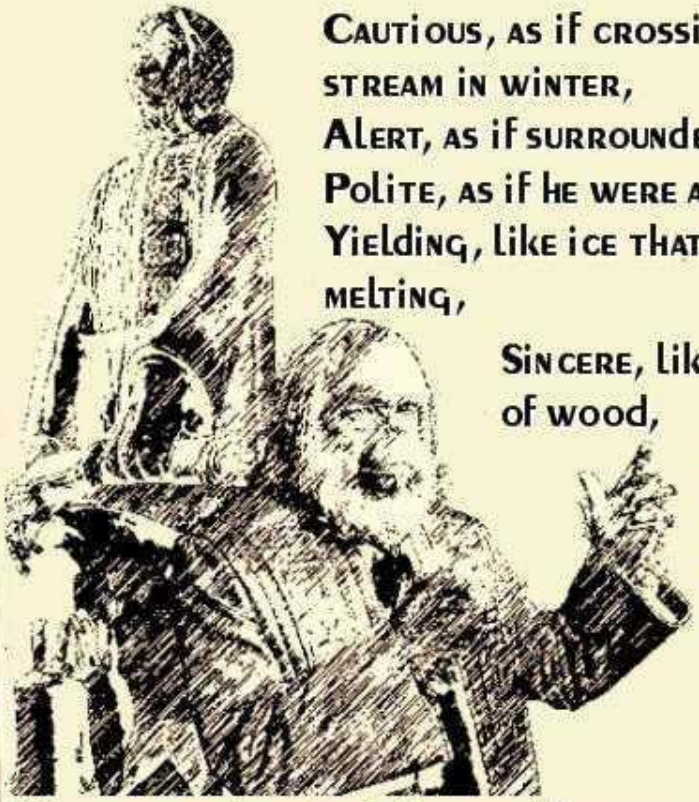
The spectacle was often repeated with great applause, till on one occasion a spectator, bent on mischief, took from his pocket a handful of nuts and threw them upon the stage. The humans at the sight of the nuts forgot their dancing and became (as indeed they were) humans instead of actors. Pulling off their masks and tearing their robes, they fought with one another for the nuts. The dancing spectacle thus came to an end amidst the laughter and ridicule of the audience.

Moral: Man can be taught a few simple tricks and nothing more.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number V

In ancient times there lived the greatest ape, the Lawgiver. His way of living was so wise, so subtle, it cannot be directly explained. Instead, here is how he looked:



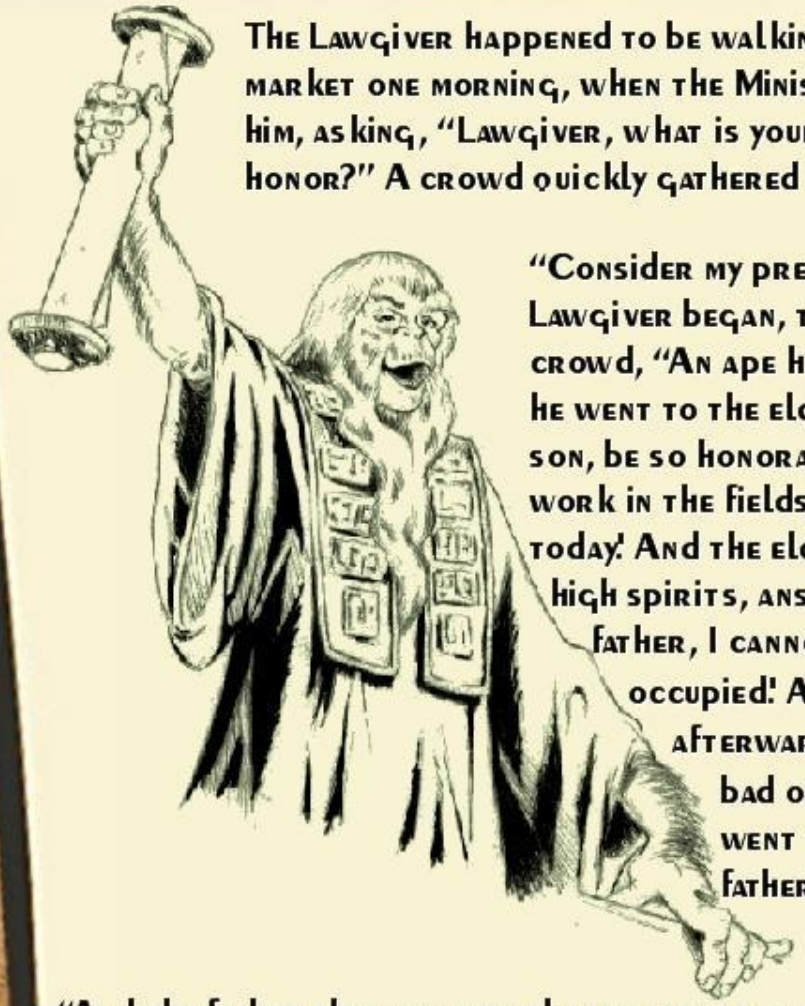
Cautious, as if crossing the ford of a stream in winter,
Alert, as if surrounded by danger,
Polite, as if he were always a guest,
Yielding, like ice that is on the verge of melting,
Sincere, like an uncarved block of wood,
Receptive, like a valley,
Opaque, like muddy water.

Who can wait quietly for muddy water to slowly settle and become clear? Who can continue to calmly live, and so experience nature's constant, slow growth?

Apes who follow the teachings of the Lawgiver do not desire excess to be full. Apes who do not desire excess have unseen energy that constantly invigorates.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz — Number VI



The Lawgiver happened to be walking through the market one morning, when the Minister approached him, asking, "Lawgiver, what is your definition of honor?" A crowd quickly gathered to listen.

"Consider my premise" the Lawgiver began, turning to the crowd, "An ape had twin sons; and he went to the eldest and said, 'My son, be so honorable as to go and work in the fields for your father today.' And the eldest, who was of high spirits, answered him, 'No, father, I cannot, for I am otherwise occupied.' And he left him. Yet, afterward the eldest thought bad of his response, and he went into the fields for his father.

"And the father then went to the youngest son and said, 'My son, be so honorable as to go and work in the fields for your father today.' And the youngest answered him, 'I will certainly go, my father;' but then he did not go as he had said.

The Lawgiver asked the Minister, "Which son did the father's will?" And the Minister replied, "The eldest."

"Then, you have your answer," the Lawgiver answered him, and walked away.

Lesson From The Lawgiver

Text by Elaine N. Howard

Number VII

The war between apes and humans came to an end. The Lawgiver received his divine calling about his place in the new simian world. Wisdom and knowledge came to him easily. He gathered the apes together and gave instruction on the path they would take.

Orangutans are wise and have shown great leadership in the battle for our survival. They will lead the journey to a great ape nation.

Chimpanzees labored tirelessly in teaching others how to live, grow and acquire knowledge.

They will teach, create and build a simian world of great things. Gorillas gave their loyality and their lives so simians may live, raise families and have the freedom to walk towards their chosen destiny. They shall be the protectors of apes, preventing harm from humans so simian society can move forward and become the planet of the apes.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz — Number VIII

"There was a certain gorilla once, an ape of strength and prowess, quite full of himself, in other words a 'bag of wind', he came to me and sought to demean my wisdom," the Lawgiver said.

"What good is all your words? I have lands and horses. I am well known and respected. Of what use are your words to me?" the gorilla asked, to the nods of many of his fellows.

"The ape whose wealth exceeds his wisdom, to what may he be likened?" the Lawgiver replied. "To a tree whose branches are numerous but whose roots are few. The wind comes along and uproots it and sweeps it down." And the crowd laughed, because they knew who he meant by "the wind."

"But," the Lawgiver continued, "he whose wisdom exceeds his wealth, to what may he be likened? To a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are numerous. Then even if all the winds of the world come along and blow against it they cannot stir it from its place."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Text By Elaine N. Howard/Mark Terlino — Number IX

After the war with humans came to an end, the apes met weekly with the Lawgiver.

The purpose of these meetings was to learn from him and seek his advice. During one of these meetings, a young female orangutan asked the Lawgiver a question regarding monkeys. "When I lived with my master, he had a pet monkey. She was called a spider monkey and she came from a place called the Amazon Rainforest.

During the war, my master moved far away and the monkey willingly went with him.

What place do our smaller cousins have in our new world?"

The Lawgiver was quick to answer." Many centuries ago, some monkeys chose to live with humans. Some ancient humans even worshipped monkey gods. It is believed that long ago, when monkeys came into contact with humans, they grew tails. Because of this long association monkeys have had with humans, we will not live with them. We do not have tails and we do not serve humans. Monkeys shall remain in the jungles and zoos. They are too close to humans to be part of our new world." Therefore, monkeys did not become a part of simian society.

An Orangutan and a Gorilla were discussing the relative importance of Orangutans and Gorillas in general.

The Orangutan contended that he and his kind were more important than Gorillas by reason of their greater intelligence. So he took him into the public gardens and showed him a statue of the mighty Lawgiver. "That is all very well," said the Gorilla, "but proves nothing, for it was a Chimp who made the statue."

Moral: We can easily represent things as we wish them to be.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number X

The Lawgiver was asked to compare the differences between the ape and the lower beasts. Thinking a moment, the Lawgiver raised his voice, and said:

"The beast man is like ice, which intrudes upon all things and creates contention wherever he goes; which is immovable and rigid, lacking the spirit of God.

The wise ape is like water, which benefits all things and does not contend with them; which flows through all places and is in harmony with God.

"So the beast man:
Destroys all nature,
Reacts within the shallows,
Takes with seeming impunity,
Screams within suspicion,
Rules without order,
Creates naught but havoc,
Acts within greed.

"So the wise ape:
Lives within nature,
Thinks within the deep,
Gives within impartiality,
Speaks within trust,
Governs within order,
Crafts within ability,
Acts within charity."

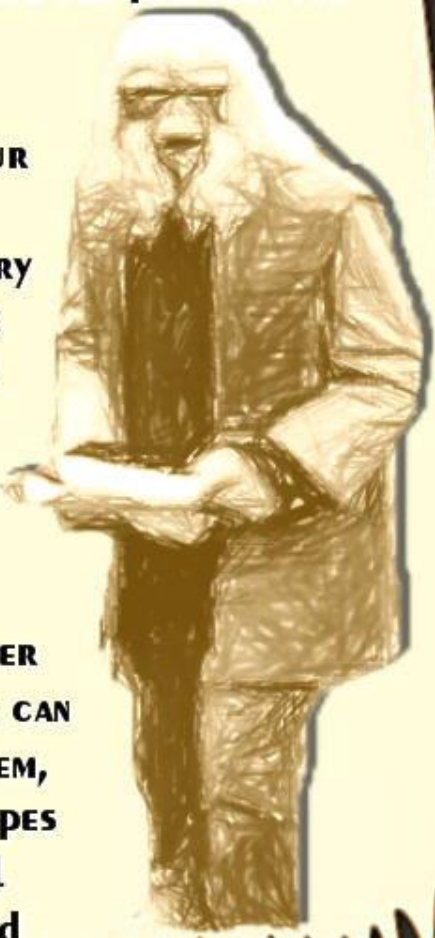
Lesson From the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Howard

Number XI

The apes gathered for their weekly meeting with the Lawgiver. A young female chimp asked the Lawgiver a question. "What about the good humans? I was raised by a nice female human who took care of me. I was never a slave in her house. When I was sick, she spent all her money on medical care for me."

The Lawgiver looked away and pondered the question for several minutes. He finally answered.

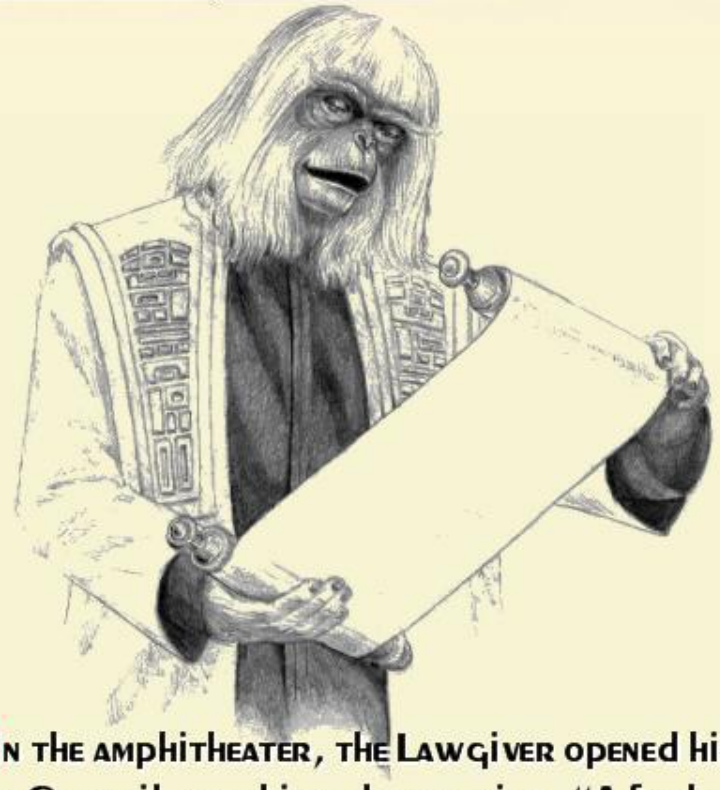


"You were a fortunate ape to receive kindness from a human. However, your mistress is a very rare human. Most humans are evil and we need to be wary of them. If more humans were like the female who raised you, they could be part of simian society,but most humans are destructive and have no place in our new world."

The young chimp cast her eyes downward and was sad. The Lawgiver saw her despair and said, "If humans can prove someday that we can trust them, then the world may change, where apes and humans will live together. Until that day, humans are to be feared and kept in their place".

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Number XII



In the amphitheater, the Lawgiver opened his mouth before the Council, teaching them, saying, "A fool with a sense of his foolishness is, at least to that extent, perceptive. But a fool who thinks himself wise really proves that he is a fool."

He strode over to the cage of men, saying, "Here we have the beast, man. Even if for his lifetime the man is around the wise ape, he knows nothing of the Law, as the ladle knows nothing of the taste of the soup. Yet, even if for a moment, the perceptive ape is around the wise ape, he immediately knows the Law, as the tongue knows the taste of the soup.

"The beast, man, their wisdom weak, are their own enemies as they go through life, doing evil that bears bitter fruit."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XIII

Proteus came to Ape City to speak with the Lawgiver about the necessity of ritual, he believing that pomp and ceremony was integral to enriching ape-kind, and he sited the mighty apes of the ancient wars as his example.

However, the Lawgiver replied to him, saying, "All of those apes of whom you speak have long since mouldered away with their bones. Only empty words remain.

"When a capable ape's time comes, he rises to the challenge; if he does not, then he wanders wearily the rest of his life.

"I have heard that the sly merchant will keep his finest buried deeply to make it look as if he had none, then he exacts a great price, for naught.

"I have also heard that the superior ape whose character is perfected will feign to be simple, to not lord it over others. Which of these is rich?

"Give up, Proteus, your proud airs, your many desires, mannerisms and extravagant claims. They will do you no good at all. That is all I have to tell you."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XIV

The Lawgiver sat on the sunlit hillside, overlooking Ape City, one beautiful morning. Assembled around him were a dozen children of all ages and sizes.

A young chimpanzee stood-up in the background, and asked, "Lawgiver, why do you and all the learned orangutans wear orange, yet I and all my kin wear green?"

The Lawgiver nodded, and squinted his ancient eyes into the sun, asking, "What color is the sun that illuminates our day, as it arises at the dawn?"

"Orange!" a youthful orangutan answered, standing.

"Yes!" replied the Lawgiver. He delicately picked a blossom growing near his careworn feet, and asked, "And what color is the ever-growing, ever-spreading verdant forest?" he continued.

"Why, green and brown!" the young chimpanzee answered, to the agreement of his fellows.

"Exactly!" the Lawgiver smiled. He grabbed-up a handful of dirt and rock, sifting it through his gnarled fingers, and asked, "And what colors are the rocks and stones and earth which support all of God's creatures?" he asked, spreading his arms out wide.

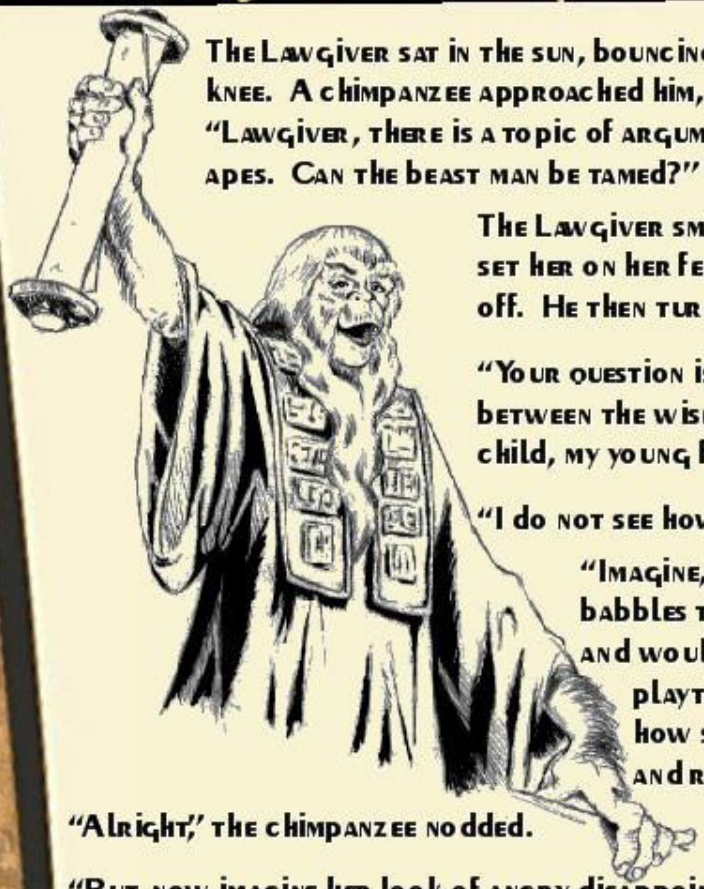
"The earth and rocks are brown!" a gorilla answered, jumping to his feet. "And the stones are gray and black!" continued another gorilla child. "And the black stones, like coal, have purple and red in them!" the first gorilla added.

"Very good!" the Lawgiver applauded. "And thus, you see, God has ordained that we orangutans, who dispense the enlightenment from Heaven, wear orange as the light at sunrise. Those who are the intellectuals, who seek knowledge wherever it may sprout, and spread that knowledge, wear the green and brown of God's spreading forest creation. And those who are the strongest, who we must rely upon for our support, wear the black and gray and purple, as the firm earth and rock and stone!"

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz

Number XV



The Lawgiver sat in the sun, bouncing his granddaughter on his knee. A chimpanzee approached him, and posed a question, "Lawgiver, there is a topic of argument among all most learned apes. Can the beast man be tamed?"

The Lawgiver smiled at his granddaughter, set her on her feet and watched her toddle off. He then turned to the chimpanzee.

"Your question is truly the difference between the wise adult and the innocent child, my young friend."

"I do not see how," the chimpanzee replied.

"Imagine, if you will, the little child as she babbles to the beast chained to the tree, and would fain to be friends with the wild plaything. Observe in every action how she expects it to understand her, and return her love."

"Alright," the chimpanzee nodded.

"But, now imagine her look of angry disappointment, when a bite or a scratch disturbs the security of her affectionate dream.

"It is not pain alone the child feels, there is the vexation of hurt feelings as well. The beast should not have behaved so to her; the beast, with whom she had so gladly shared her breakfast of fruit; the beast, whom she had petted upon the head; the beast, who must have known how much she loved it!"

"Yes," the chimpanzee offered, "I can imagine that."

"Then, my young friend," the Lawgiver concluded, "Imagine how the wise adult does not need to take this child's path. He already knows the upright beast cannot be tamed."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Text by Elaine Howard/Art by Glen Scheetz

Number XVI

The Lawgiver met with several simian children to instruct them in the ways of apes. After giving his lesson, the Lawgiver invited the children to ask questions. A young female chimp raised her hand. "My best friend is human. We play together every day. She would never hurt me." The Lawgiver was stern with the young chimp. Beware about laying with human children. They maybe rough with you and not treat you kindly. You should play with ape children. The young chimp was upset. "My friend is the daughter of my mother's best slave. We have been together since we were very young." The Lawgiver continued to be firm. "You should not trust a human. She maybe your friend now but when she becomes older, she may turn against you and try to enslave you! Remember that now is the time for apes to reign.

A young gorilla raised his hand. "I love to draw and paint. I hope to be a famous artist when I grow up." The Lawgiver was quick to respond to the young simian. "You are big and strong. You will grow up to be a noble soldier. Your duty is to protect ape society. While drawing and painting are much needed, that is not the destiny of a gorilla. When you have finished your duties as a soldier for this simian world, then you may draw and paint for pleasure. Protecting your fellow simians is your duty and your calling.

Next a young orangutan male raised his hand. How can we be sure we do not make the same mistakes as humans once did? In my village, half of my neighbors are fighting with the other half of the village. I know of apes who believe we should build weapons and conquer other apes. Didn't humans do this and it led to their downfall? Aren't these apes just as bad as humans? The Lawgiver was nervous over this question but didn't show it. These apes will learn the hard way that violence and destruction is not the answer. If apes repeat the mistakes of humans, we will not survive. That is why it is so important that we keep humans as slaves and distance ourselves from their way of life. We must show that we are better than humans.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

One summer the Lawgiver visited Frankus, the son of Proteus, in the village of Hio, a farming community to the west of Ape City. The Lawgiver noted to Frankus how unhappy and divided the apes of Hio seemed to be.

Frankus told the Lawgiver the troubles had started when the last village prefect was chosen. The choice had been between Kerik and Buto. Most apes believed that Kerik would beat Buto. Kerik was a war hero and Buto was known as an idiot. Yet when the counting was done, Buto had won by fifty votes. But there in was the problem for the total votes for both apes was more than the number of those living in the village.

Many apes suspected that Buto had created phantoms to cast their vote for him. But none of this could be proven so Buto became prefect to the dismay of many.

Buto had since launched a war against a tribe of humans that were no threat to the community, lying about the offences they had committed. He demanded total allegience of all apes, calling those who opposed him cowards and traitors. And now wished to dismantle an old, historic building erected many generations before for the benefit of all in the community.

Frankus sought the Lawgiver's wisdom on what should be done. The Lawgiver told his old friend not to worry. Those who are so desperate to win that they would create phantoms to support them will soon find that they are standing as if on quicksand for the accolades & power they seek are as insubstantial as the phantoms they have created and will soon disappear into the mists.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XVIII

A young orangutan happened upon the Lawgiver, returning from a trip to the rural district.

"Excuse, sir," the young ape said, "But, can you tell me what is the highest virtue an ape can attain to?"

"Humbleness," the Lawgiver answered, without hesitation.

"Just that?" the orangutan asked.

"Yes," replied the Lawgiver. "The humble ape is a reflection of the Almighty, whose ability goes far beyond that of simple material expression. His essence is a spiritual one. He is a living example of a disciplined, spiritual life. He continually sets great tasks for himself and never neglects his daily learning. He is recognized by the aura of tranquility that surrounds him. He possesses an immovable spirit, a spiritual state that enables him to meet any situation with composure."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Number XIX

The General, a gorilla of some fame and prestige, confronted the Lawgiver, asking, "Why is it these so-called scientists must make so much of their insidious studies of those beasts, men? Exterminate them, that is what I say!" And the crowd agreed with him.

The Lawgiver looked at the General a moment, then stood with a smile, replying, "The habits, you see, of these beasts -- these men -- whom we equally fear and dislike, is decidedly the most useful of all subjects of study. How can it be otherwise? Their treatment of us, and our feelings to them, can never be placed on a proper footing, until we know something of the nature of the beasts themselves!"

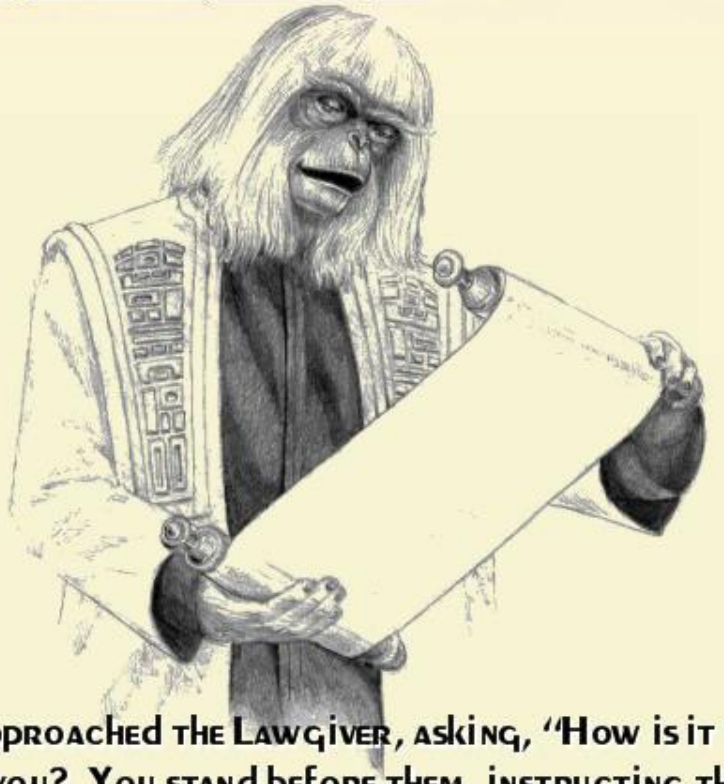
Turning to the crowd, he continued, "In fact, my friends, I base my whole assertion upon two assumptions. First, that it is *desirable* to ascertain the exact truth on the subject; secondly, that it is *necessary* to ascertain the exact truth upon the subject."

"But, you have not answered my question," the General persisted, "Why?"

The Lawgiver smiled yet again, saying, "To understand those beasts without, is to understand our beast within, that we never become them."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Number XX



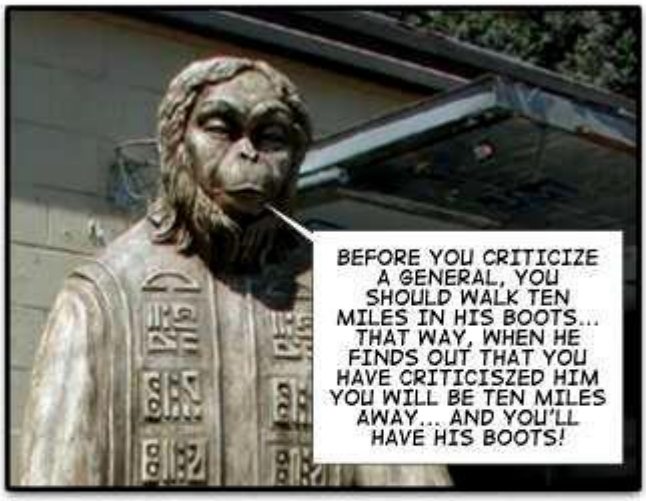
Cephus approached the Lawgiver, asking, "How is it that all apes listen to you? You stand before them, instructing them, and they do not contend with you."

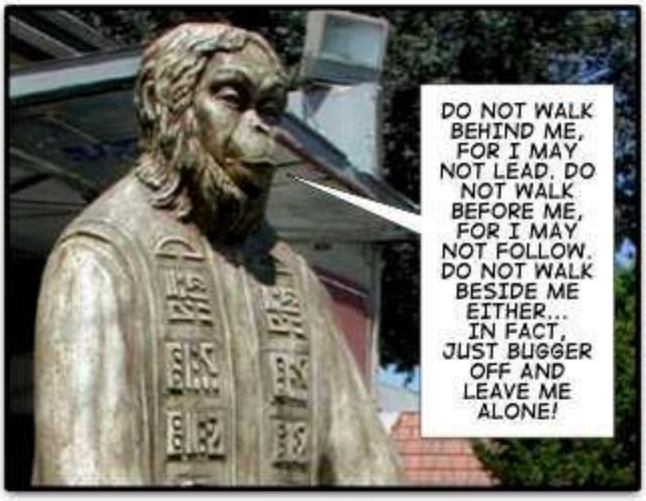
The Lawgiver smiled, and answered, "The river is the servant of the valley, watering it as it slowly carves out the valley by flowing through it. Thus, it can be seen how the river is actually the master of the valley.

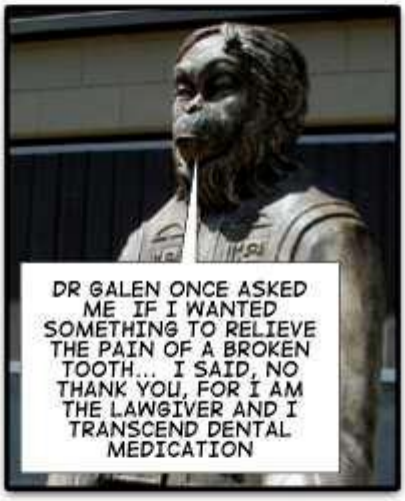
"In order to master my fellow apes, I must speak as their servant; in order to lead my fellow apes, I must follow them.

"So when I must arise above my fellow apes, they do not feel oppressed; and when I must stand before my fellow apes, they do not feel threatened. My words do not fail, because I do not contend, and no one contends against me."

LESSONS FROM THE LAWGIVER


BEFORE YOU CRITICIZE A GENERAL, YOU SHOULD WALK TEN MILES IN HIS BOOTS... THAT WAY, WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT YOU HAVE CRITICISZED HIM YOU WILL BE TEN MILES AWAY... AND YOU'LL HAVE HIS BOOTS!


DO NOT WALK BEHIND ME, FOR I MAY NOT LEAD. DO NOT WALK BEFORE ME, FOR I MAY NOT FOLLOW. DO NOT WALK BESIDE ME EITHER... IN FACT, JUST BUGGER OFF AND LEAVE ME ALONE!


DR GALEN ONCE ASKED ME IF I WANTED SOMETHING TO RELIEVE THE PAIN OF A BROKEN TOOTH... I SAID, NO THANK YOU, FOR I AM THE LAWGIVER AND I TRANSCEND DENTAL MEDICATION

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Text by Elaine N. Howard

Number XXII

The Lawgiver was getting on in years. The apes in his village gave him a surprise birthday party that included the whole village. It was a momentous occasion. No one had ever given the Lawgiver a birthday party in his entire life and he was moved to tears. When he composed himself, a group of ape children sang a song for him.

You're old!
You're old!
You're so darn old!
But we love you anyways!

They sang in harmony and then sang in a round. Then a female orangutan jumped out of a cake. The Lawgiver's eyes almost popped out of his head. Next many gifts were presented to him. It would take a good part of the evening to open all the presents. The first gift was a banana holder to put in his kitchen. The next gift was a cookbook with fifty recipes utilizing bananas. Another gift was a book describing the history of the banana. The Lawgiver was stunned when he opened even another book that contained 101 poems about bananas. In his mind he wondered if anyone paid attention to his lessons and thought about other things besides bananas. When he was presented with a gift certificate for a year supply of bananas, he wondered if simian civilization would even survive.

Banana beer flowed throughout the evening. The Lawgiver had only a small glass but many apes became inebriated. A drunken gorilla put his arm around the Lawgiver and babbled incoherently. His breath was overwhelming. An orangutan female approached the Lawgiver and stated she had been a widow for a long time now. "He should come to her house for banana cream pie." The Lawgiver thought to himself "I am a scholar and a theologian, marriage is not my destiny." He was rescued by the drunken gorilla who walked towards the orangutan and said he would love some banana cream pie. His wife was a lousy cook and could barely boil water. The orangutan quickly walked away followed by the intoxicated gorilla.

At Midnight fireworks went off in the Lawgiver's honor. It was a spectacular sight. After the fireworks were set off, the prefect told the Lawgiver to be sure to up at dawn for a banana pancake breakfast. Silently, the Lawgiver thought about packing and leaving the village during the night. He thought he knew his followers but obviously he didn't. And he wasn't a party person. He made a resolution to go on vacation next year on his birthday.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXIII

The Lawgiver sat in the amphitheater, surrounded by the children. He was their Teacher. He taught them why the waters were so blue. He taught them why the corn was so sweet. He taught them why the rains fell, and the winds blew.

The littlest orangutan stood up in the back, and asked, "Lawgiver, where do we come from?"

The Lawgiver thought for a moment, and replied, "Why, from your mother and your father, as all good apes do!"

Yet, the child was not satisfied, and proceeded to say, "No. I mean where did we all come from -- in the beginning of everything?"

"Ah, I see," the Lawgiver answered. He then scratched his beard a moment, and continued.

"In the beginning of all things, the Almighty was alone. He discovered that He did not want to be alone, however. Now, the Almighty could create whatever He wished to, merely by thinking about it, so He thought about what He would like to see, and whatever He thought came into being.

"He thought earth, and there it was. He thought mountains, and so they were. He thought trees, and sky, and the beasts of the fields, and each came into being. But none of these things could talk with Him, so He formed more advanced beings of clay.

"He fashioned three new beings on the earth. One He made from the bright orange clays to be found only in the highest bluffs. Another He made from the rich creamy clays only seen in the dark, virgin forests. And the third He made from the thick, black clays of the woodland streams.

"Into these three beings, all males, He breathed the breath of life. Into these three beings He gifted a soul and a mind, and set them apart from the beasts of the field. And they thanked their Creator, and bowed down to Him for their blessings. And the Almighty blessed them by giving them female counterparts, one each.

"And these six are the ancestors of all apes!"

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXIV

The Lawgiver, and his new apprentice, a young orangutan named Thesius, were deep in meditation.Thesius' friend, a chimp named Barotan, approached them, and asked, "Thesius, are you really happy with this new monastic lifestyle of yours?"

Thesius replied, "Happy? I suppose that would depend upon your perspective on happiness."

"My perspective? I mean to enjoy yourself. You used to have a passion for your life –"

"Oh, passion," Thesius interrupted him. "True contentment consists in the mastery of his passions, not indulging in them."

"But, you used to have fun getting out with others, being the center of attention. Now, look at you," Barotan replied.

The Lawgiver quietly cleared his throat, and said, "True happiness is of a retired nature, an enemy to pomp and noise. It arises, first, from contentment with one's self, and next from the friendship and conversation of a few select companions."

"What?" Barotan interjected. "No disrespect, sir, but I can't see how Thesius is happier now, sitting like this, rather than being surrounded by his friends. He is a very popular ape, sir."

The Lawgiver chuckled. "Many an ape has the wrong idea of what is true happiness. It is not something to be attained through self-gratification but through making others believe they are the cause of it. Slow down to enjoy your life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast -- you also miss the sense of where you are going and why."

Thesius smiled, and patted the grassy earth next to him. Barotan stared at him a moment, then shrugged his shoulders and sat next to his friend.

"The foolish ape seeks happiness in the distance, the wise ape grows it under his feet," the Lawgiver concluded.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Text by Elaine Howard

Number XXV

The Lawgiver decided that he needed a break from simian society and he needed to refresh himself. He felt drained and tired, so he knew he needed to get away for awhile. He gathered a few of his belongings and headed for a cave deep in the woods. He brought plenty of water but decided to fast for a few days. On the third day, when he woke up in the morning, there was a mountain lion at the entrance of the cave. The lion spoke to him. Strength is vital for simian society to move forward. You must maintain your health and strength and encourage others to do so as well. The lion gazed at the Lawgiver for a few minutes and then walked off. The Lawgiver meditated on the lion's words and realized the importance of his teachings for the simian world. He vowed to instruct more students in his wisdom.

On the fourth day, when the Lawgiver woke up, an eagle sat at the entrance of the cave. The majestic bird studied the lawgiver for a long time before he spoke. "Simans are now free but how will you use that freedom? Wisely? Or foolishly?" The bird ruffled his feathers and then flew off. Again, the Lawgiver spent the day meditating on the eagle's words. The gift of freedom was not to be taken lightly and simians needed to make the world a better place.

On the fifth day, the Lawgiver woke up and saw what he thought was a wolf at the entrance of the cave. The animal gazed at him suspiciously. His eyes were bright yellow and the Lawgiver did not feel confortable around this animal. The animal spoke. "You do not know me, I am a coyote. If simian society does well, you will never see me again. But you are so close to humans, you probably will see me and my kind in the future. We come when the natural world is damaged. We feast on children and other animals. Respect the trees, animals and water, you will not see me." The coyote did not walk away but disappeared. The Lawgiver felt afraid and realized the enormous responsiblity of the new simain world in taking care of the natural environment. He now felt ready to return to simian society and he had more than enough lessons to instruct his ape brothers and sisters in moving forward with simian civilization.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs/Art by Glen Scheetz — Number XXVIa

Part I

"Long, long ago, when the world was still scorched, the apes lived in wandering families. Each family had its own laws, and they did not always agree. Now, there were so many ape families that their gatherers had to find a great deal of food and water for them each day, and this was not always possible.

"Leggedare was a young orangutan and he lived with his grandmother, who was all that was left of his entire family.

"One morning, when Leggedare was cooking up the last of the fruit mash with his grandmother, he asked, 'Grandmother, this fruit is so dry and mealy, why do the gatherers have to bring back such meager food?'

"'Well', said his grandmother slowly, 'We are being tested by the Almighty. I know this fruit is mealy and dry, but the Almighty knows what will make our family strong, and he will provide. Perhaps one day He will lead us to a land big enough for all three of the great ape families to live together, under one rule, without wandering about', sighed his grandmother.

"But Leggedare was not content to simply wait. He was going to seek out the Almighty.

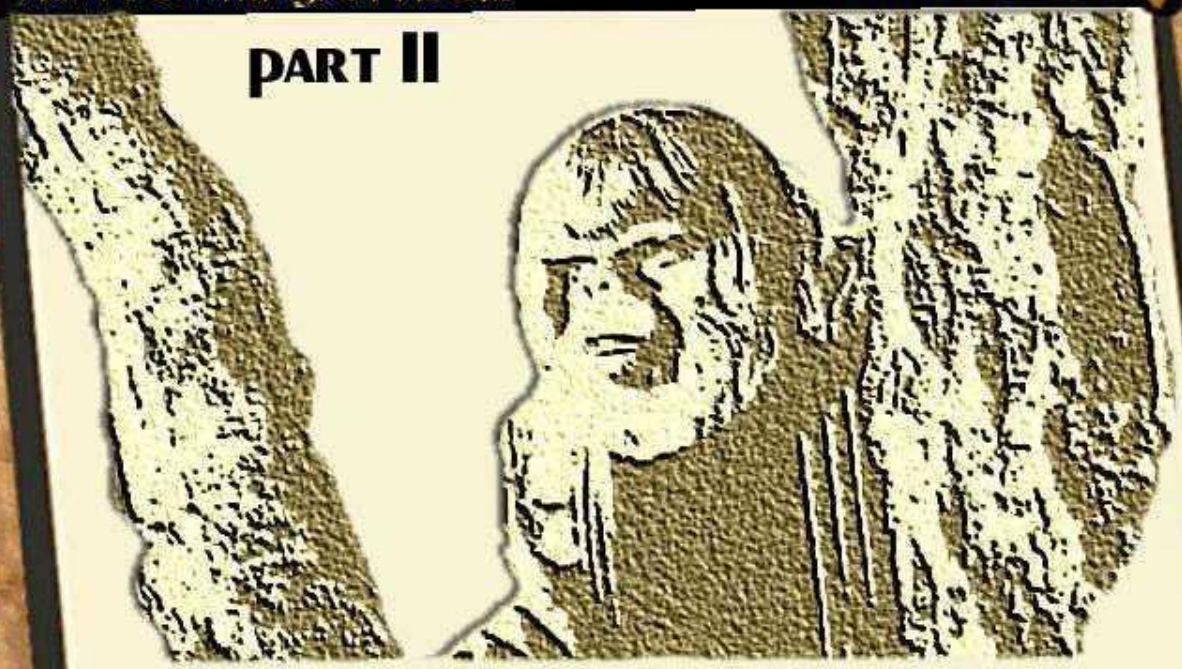
To Be Continued....

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Number XXVIb

Part II



That very night, Leggedare hiked across the desert and climbed to the top of a nearby crag, and looked off into the distant north, at the unhealthy green glow on the horizon, and dropping to his knees, he prayed, 'Oh, Almighty, please, please hear my prayer.' A buzzing broke through the air, out of the north, encouraging him. Leggedare continued, 'Almighty I know you can hear me. Please send me a sign.' The buzzing filled the air once again, as lightning flashed across the burnt lands below him, that he took as a sign. 'I believe that you hear me,' he cried at the top of him lungs, leaping to his feet. '"Oh, Almighty,' Leggedare prayed, 'I know that we are your Chosen Ones. Please, show me where there is a land big enough for all three of the great ape families to live under one law, without wandering about.' Suddenly, lightning flashed right at Leggedare, forking through him and traveling out to the south, behind him.

'Leggedare spun about, facing south, and collapsed in a heap at the top of the crag.

To Be Continued....

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protues Number XXVIc

Part III

The next morning, Leggedare awoke, and was amazed to find himself alive. A new determination thrummed through his body. He knew what he had to do. First, he ran home and told his grandmother about his conversation with the Almighty.

"And I know, Leggedare concluded, 'That not only are we the Chosen Ones, but I am chosen of the Almighty, to lead my fellows and find the place where all apes can live together.'

"'My child, I believe you. I believe you are the people's Lawgiver. I will journey with you, and we will gather all who will follow, until we come to the place chosen by the Almighty,' his grandmother replied.

"And that is exactly what happened. Oh, not all at once, to be sure. The Lawgiver led a small mixed group of apes south for almost two weeks, until they came to a wide, placid river. Eventually, all the great ape families came to live by that river, under one law, governed by the Lawgiver.

"And that is how we came to build Central City here."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine Howard

Number XXVII

Protégé

The Lawgiver was at his desk writing one evening where he thought he heard something outside his front door. When he went to the door, there was a basket with a newborn Baby orangutan in it. The little boy looked up at the Lawgiver who picked up the basket and brought the baby inside. When he notified the authorities in his village they asked him if he would take care of the baby orangutan until his parents could be found. The Lawgiver agreed and brought the baby home. The Lawgiver soon learned that he may have intellectual ability and wisdom but he was lacking in practical matters and commonsense. He may lead simian society to a new world but it took him an hour to change a diaper. And when the baby cried, he assumed he was hungry. So every time the little orang bellowed, the Lawgiver got out some milk and mashed bananas. Frequently, the little one spit up on him. The Lawgiver was running out of clothes to change into. And the Lawgiver discovered he was dependent on others in this situation. He always was the independent one and gave advice to apes all the time. Now all he did was yell for his neighbors who had children and asked them what to do. He also was exhausted from the lack of sleep.

The baby had to accompany him to his classes where he often lectured while carrying the infant in his arms. The little one loved the classes and the Lawgiver was grateful he refrained from crying when he taught. At the end of a week, the authorities told the Lawgiver that they did not find the baby's parents but an orangutan couple wanted to adopt him. The lawgiver was relieved at first until he arrived at the house of the adoptive parents. He broke into tears and even though he was exhausted, he had become attached to the baby, who he had named Orion. The baby's new mother spoke with the Lawgiver. "I don't think this baby was put on your doorstep by accident. I believe the Creator wants you to teach him your wisdom and prepare him to fill your shoes when you journey to the next life. We welcome you to dine with us each week and when Orion is old enough, instruct him in the ways and laws of simian society." The Lawgiver agreed and complimented the female orangutan on her wisdom. So now the Lawgiver had much work to do in teaching his protégé the ways of the simian world.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XXVIII

The ape understands what is right; man understands what will sell.

The ape is liberal towards the opinions of others, but does not completely agree with them; man completely agrees with the opinions of others, but is not liberal towards them.

The ape loves his soul; man loves his property.

The ape is universally minded and no partisan; man is a partisan and not universal.

The ape is polite but not cringing; man is cringing but not polite."

The ape is easy to serve, but difficult to please, for he can be pleased by what is right, and he uses comrades according to their individual abilities. man is difficult to serve, but easy to please, for you can please him (by catering to his weaknesses) without necessarily being right, and when he comes to using others, he demands perfection."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Text by Elaine Howard

Number XXIX

The Lawgiver had recovered from his birthday celebration and called the simian members of his village to gather around, he needed to speak with them. Todays lesson was unusually hard and he had prepared for it in his mind, over and over. He cleared his voice and began. I am deeply moved and honored by your giving me a birthday celebration and the many gifts you presented to me. I will forever remember this particular birthday. He cleared his voice again. I need to remind you that I am your teacher. An ape who listens to our creator, deciphering his wisdom. My life is about learning, teaching and serving the new simian world. The young lady who popped out of my cake is quite lovely but.... I see all female simians as my sisters, I am called to remain celebate. Presenting females to me, is inappropiate. Silence hung in the air as the apes listened to the great teacher. Many of you were quite intoxicated during the party. A glass of wine a day is good for one's health and soul, but many of you consumed several bottles and were crawling on the ground like our ancestors. Please remember my fellow simians, we are trying to move forward with our civilization, not backwards. And last, while I enjoy a banana or two every day, I couldn't look at bananas for a month after the party. Some of you need to develop other interests besides the various ways a banana can be prepared to be eaten. The Lawgiver than became silent and those listening to him agreed that they needed to not be so excessive at his next birthday celebration. However, the Lawgiver realized that this lesson maybe forgotten by his next birthday and started thinking about taking a vacation around his birthday.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXX

"Lawgiver, you are so wise," a young gorilla began, "You must know everything about – everything."

The Lawgiver merely smiled and looked at his feet. He then took a deep breath and, letting it out slowly, gazed at the heavens, replying, "I am sorry to have to disillusion you, but, only the fool claims to know everything."

A chimpanzee stood, saying, "But revered sir, your age, your learning, surely you are all wise and all knowing."

"No," the Lawgiver repeated, "I am not. As a matter of fact," he continued, "the longer I live, the more I realize I do not know."

"How is that?" the young gorilla asked.

"Quite simply, really," he answered, still smiling. "You see, without taking a step outdoors, the youthful ape knows the color of the sky, or the weather." He looked around at his students. "Thus, without taking a peek out the window, the youthful ape concludes they know the whole world.

"However, the more the wise ape experiences, the less they realize that they know. The wise ape studies because he does not know, looks and listens because he does not see and hear. He accomplishes quietly without acting the wise.

Without acting the fool."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXI

The class was exiting the amphitheater when the new gorilla general, Amar, leapt to the platform, crying, "Lawgiver! O wise master of rhetoric, enlighten me as to how I should train-up my army."

The Lawgiver, and the crowd, stopped. Sensing contention and animosity, he did not turn as he replied, "Honest apes need no rhetoric; rhetoric does not denote honesty." Looking at General Amar, he added, "Enlightened apes are not necessarily cultured. Culture is not enlightenment."

The Lawgiver began walking away.

"Wait!" General Amar called out again, "I have not finished with you, yet!" The Lawgiver stopped, but did not turn.

"I have sought you out, O wise master of wealth and contentment. Teach me how to best lead my troops. For the benefit of all apes!"

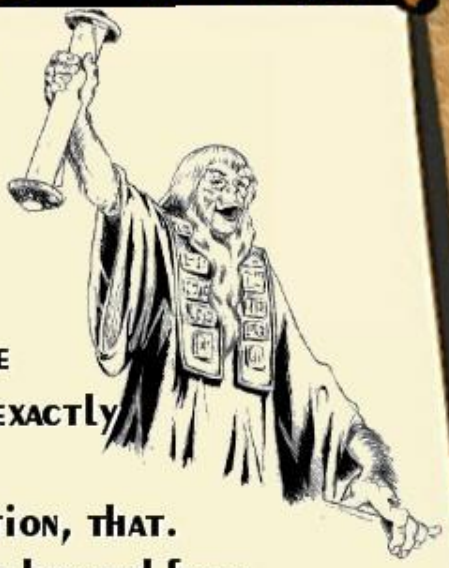
The Lawgiver whirled around to face the General, saying, "The wise leader does not serve himself. The more he does for others, the more he is satisfied. The more he gives, the more he receives.

"All of God's creation flourishes at the expense of no one, thus, the wise leader benefits all apes and contends with none. -- And I am finished with you."

The Lawgiver turned and exited the amphitheater.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz — Number XXXII



"And thus," the Lawgiver concluded his speech to his students, "It can be readily seen, by comparing the nature of God's creation to man, that the beast has no soul."

A chimpanzee stood at the back of the class. "Lawgiver?" he asked, "What exactly is a soul?"

The Lawgiver smiled. "Quite a question, that.

"Looked at but cannot be seen -- it is beyond form. Listened to but cannot be heard -- it is beyond sound. Held in the heart but cannot be touched -- it is beyond feelings. The depthless soul evades definition, yet breathes into every single mystery.

"In its arising there is no light, in its setting there is no darkness, it is a continuous thread beyond description. Lighting what does not see; its form is formless, its image is void, its nature is silence.

"Follow it, it has no back. Face it, it has no front. Attending the present you deal with the past and future you. Thus you grasp the continuity of the soul, which is the beginning of its essence.

"That essence is the Divine spark, that soul that exists only in the simian heart and mind."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXIII

Cephus, the prefect of Kaul, decided to ask the Lawgiver's advice, while visiting Ape City.

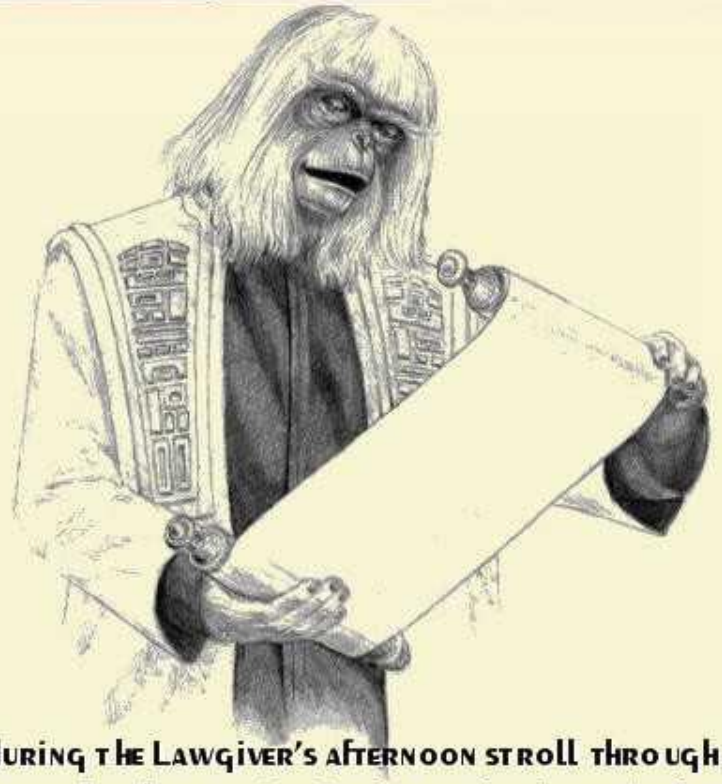
"O Lawgiver," Cephus began, "I realize that you are the wise leader of our great ape nation, but, could you tell me what is the best way to govern my humble province, in accordance to the Almighty's wisdom?"

The Lawgiver reflected a moment, then replied, "Governing a humble province is no different than governing a great nation. To govern apes in accord with the Almighty's wisdom, it is best to be restrained. You see, restraint makes agreements easier to attain. And easy agreements build harmonious relationships. With sufficient harmony no resistance will arise. When no resistance arises, then you possess the heart of your fellow apes. And when you possess your fellows' hearts, your influence will long endure. Deeply rooted and firmly established, this is the best way to prosper your humble province in the Almighty's sight."

Lesson From The Lawgiver

Art by Glen Scheetz

Number XXXIV



One day during the Lawgiver's afternoon stroll through Ape City, he came upon two females arguing in the marketplace. "What in the name of Caesar is all the commotion about?", he asked the females.

"I was buying this vase and put it down for just a moment and she snatched it up", answered the gorilla.

To which the chimpanzee responded, "No, that vase was just sitting on the shelf. she showed no interest in it until I picked it up. It is my vase".

"It is my vase!", protested the gorilla.

the Lawgiver picked up the vase and smashed it to pieces, "Pious simians do not fight each other over material things like braying humans".

As the Lawgiver was leaving the marketplace he was confronted by the owner demanding payment for the vase.

Moral: Even if you are the wisest & greatest ape of all time:

'You break it, you buy it!'

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Return of the Coyote By Elaine Howard — Number XXXV

The Lawgiver visited a simian village that appeared to be quite successful. Many human slaves tended the crops and most of the apes owned large amounts of property and material goods. The Lawgiver taught at the local school and was invited to dine in several homes. The prefect accompanied the Lawgiver at all times and never allowed him to be alone. The Lawgiver thought this was strange but said nothing. While the Lawgiver was giving his final lecture to the villagers, the coyote from his vision quest appeared in the crowd. His eyes were still bright yellow and a snarl was on his face. None of the villagers seemed to notice him except the Lawgiver who was very shaken by his presence. The Lawgiver regained his composure and finished the lecture.

As the Lawgiver was leaving the village, the coyote appeared and walked beside the orangutan elder. "You did not see the destructive ways of the village or the ravaging of the environment because they didn't allow you to. Beware simian leader. You are following the path of man." The coyote then disappeared. The Lawgiver was so nervous he sat down. He decided to heed the coyote's words. In the next village he would demand to investigate further the life of the village and look below the surface of daily life. He would also investigate how they treated the natural environment and make reverence for the natural world part of his lessons.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXVI

The Liturgical Minister of Ape City approached the Lawgiver, amidst his meditations in the fruit-tree grove. He waited patiently for the Lawgiver to recognize him.

The Lawgiver finally raised his eyes, saying, "Ah, Chrysaphius, what brings you to me on this beautiful day?"

"O Honorable One," the Minister began, "I am beginning the work of putting the wisdom of the Almighty onto parchment."

"A worthy endeavor," the Lawgiver replied.
"Thank you," the Minister commented. "I would like your opinion, O Honorable One, as to the comportment of Ministers."

"Ah, yes," the Lawgiver nodded, thinking a moment. "A Minister should not distinguish between himself and other apes. The needs of other apes are as his own.

"A Minister should be good to those apes who are good. He should also be good to those apes who are not good, thereby the Minister is always good.
"A Minister should trust those apes who are trustworthy. He should also trust those apes who are not trustworthy, thereby the Minister is always trustworthy.
"A Minister should live in harmony with our society, with his heart being the society's heart. Thus, he nurtures others as a she-ape does her young."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXVII

General Amar, having listened to one of the Lawgiver's classes, stood to pose a question. "O, Great One," he began, with an air of sarcasm, "If the Almighty created all apes equal, why is it that some are more successful, while others are not?"

The Lawgiver replied, "The true nature of the ape is as if a lazy farmer should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, ignoring what he has, and the seed should sprout and grow, but does not come to full grain.

"Whereas, if an industrious farmer should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and care for the seed and plant and full grain, and he knows it is because of his industriousness.

"The Almighty produces of an equal spirit, yet the prosperity of each soul is up to every ape himself."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXVIIIa

Part 1

Long, long ago, my children, when the world was still scorched, there lived two orangutans, one of whom made his home in the land of the east, on the sea coast, whose name was Dyeus, while the other, named Iuno, dwelt by a clear stream which ran through the land of the west. At such a great distance apart, they had never even heard of each other; but, the Almighty knew them both, and He put it into both their hearts, once they reached the age of decision, that they should like to see the Almighty's world.

So one fine morning in the spring they both set out along the path that led from the west to the east and from the east to the west, Dyeus from his sea coast and Iuno from her crystal stream. The journey was more wondrous than they expected, for they did not know much about traveling. Halfway between their two lands there arose a crag that they were both strangely compelled to climb. It took them a long time to reach the top, but there they were at last, and they were both quite surprised to see another ape standing before them!

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXVIIIb

PART II

Dyeus and Iuno looked at each other for a moment without speaking, he all strong and handsome and she so supple and beautiful. They did not quite realize it, but they fell in love, right then and there. It was exhilarating to be together, and as they were in no sort of hurry to part they stretched themselves out in the warm, gentle breeze to share a meal, and agreed that they would have a good rest before they separated to go their ways.

"What a pity you could not live in the east," said Dyeus, hours later as the meal was ending; "for then we could see each other every day."

"That is easily managed," replied Iuno. "We have only to make a vow to each other before the eyes of the Minister and the people, and then we can be together, forever."

This idea pleased Dyeus so much that he at once jumped up and kissed Iuno on her furry muzzle, much to their mutual surprise. There they both sat, in that moment, staring into each other's limitless, brown eyes, and the Almighty's world changed forever. Suddenly, they moved as one and embraced, holding each other tightly as they feared to let go, lest they must part.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXVIIIc

PART III

Then, Dyeus turned his eyes towards the land of the east, saying, "My beautiful, beautiful Iuno! How can I let you out of my life? It has been such a long journey. When I left my seashore, little did I know it was you who I would find!"

And, Iuno turned her eyes towards the land of the west, saying, "If I had had any idea that it was you I would discover, I would have left the land of the west long ago. I have traveled all this way, only to find myself!" Then, as she finished speaking, Dyeus took her into his arms and lay down with her in the grass. Now, this was not immoral, my children, for the Almighty brought these two together, because he had a plan.

That evening, as they camped upon the crag of their union, they vowed before the Almighty that they would be together, forever. Dyeus vowed that once he returned home, he would prepare a place for his Iuno, a home with him in the east. He vowed he would send for her as soon as all was in readiness. Iuno vowed that she would return to her mother and prepare to be joined with Dyeus, as soon as he sent for her.

In the morning, they rose with the dawn's light. They were heartsick to part from each other, but they knew it was only for a short space of time. Thus, they took a polite farewell of each other, and set off for their homes again, Iuno to the land of the west and Dyeus to the land of the east.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXVIIIb

PART IV

In the land of the east, almost within sight of his beloved seacoast, Dyeus was fallen upon by a band of bestial humans. He fought valiantly, and long, but in the end, he was overwhelmed by superior numbers and brought down, beaten for the pittance of food he carried. His last breath, as he stared into the starry sky that night was to the Almighty.

"O God, bless my beautiful Iuno. Tell her, in your infinite ways, how much I love her. If I could only look upon her one last time." And with that breath's escape, he breathed no more.

In the land of the west, Iuno waited patiently for her Dyeus who would never come. She waited and waited, seeing no one, because of her swelling belly and her not joined to any ape. She waited eight long months, but she never received a word. And as her time approached, her heart was breaking so, and there was nothing anyone could do to save her. And, as with Dyeus, with her last breath Iuno prayed to the Almighty.

"O God, bless my handsome Dyeus. I know he has not forsaken me, for I can feel that he loves me still. If I could only look upon him one last time." And with that breath's escape, she breathed no more.

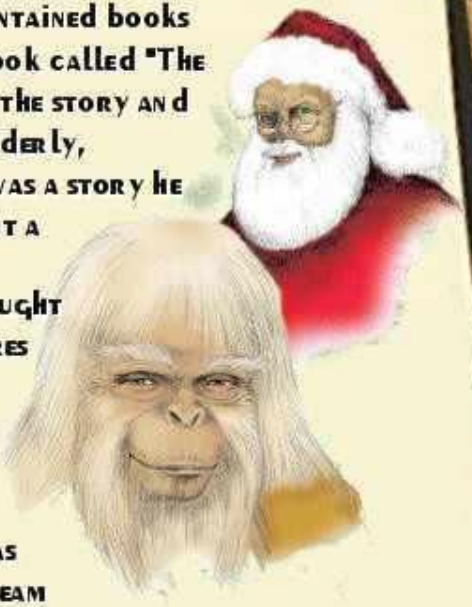
There are those who say that the Almighty worked two miracles that night. For though it was a tragedy to Iuno's mother to lose her only daughter, apes who are true believers in the Almighty's wisdom and mercy say that Iuno and Dyeus' vows to each other that they would be together forever came true, and they were reunited that very night, in the bosom of Heaven.

And out of her mother's tragic loss came the Almighty's blessings for all his people, for with her last breath Iuno gave birth to a son, for from this union between Dyeus and Iuno was born the one named Leggedare – the Lawgiver.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Howard/Art by Glen Scheetz Number XXXIX

The Lawgiver was in an ancient library that contained books written by humans. He picked up a colorful book called "The Night Before Christmas" and was fascinated by the story and the character of Santa Claus. The idea of an elderly, benevolent human delivering gifts to children was a story he never imagined that humans would create. It put a new perspective on the human race which disturbed the wise orangutan. He mostly thought of humans as destructive, self-serving creatures who mistreated apes. This jolly Santa Claus bringing gifts broke the stereotype of savage humans. Maybe not all humans were bad, he thought.



That night, the Lawgiver reread the Christmas story and fell asleep in his chair. He had a dream in which he sat in a livingroom, similar to the one in the story. It was decorated with Christmas decorations and there were several other apes in the room. They were all wearing Santa hats and eating cookies. Obviously, they were having a good time. Santa Claus came down the chimney with a bag full of presents. The jolly human approached the lawgiver. "Merry Christmas!" my son and handed him a book called "The Meaning of Life". The Lawgiver felt uncomfortable. The apes in the room continued to laugh and have a good time. The Lawgiver stuttered"....oh....my...you are a generous human. But you do not belong to us." Santa Claus laughed. "Ho, ho, ho. I belong to everyone, Sir. I am a spirit and I come for all. My message is one of giving. I also bring joy, happiness and peace. I come often in your world but my appearance is not always the same." The Lawgiver understood the message. This entity of giving may have been created by humans but he flourished in the simian world as well. The apes, like many of their human predecessors longed for a peaceful world with the spirit of giving.

When the Lawgiver woke up in the morning he had a new message for his simian world. He wouldn't tell them it came from an ancient human who commanded reindeer to fly, slid down chimneys and never stopped laughing.

Speecial Thanks to Dave Ballard

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXX

It was a well-known fact throughout Ape City that General Amar enjoyed his position and his power. He also enjoyed the pleasures his position and power brought him.

One afternoon he spied the comely daughter of one of his lowly soldiers, and he determined he would wed her. However, when he made his desires known, the daughter rebuffed him. Not to be put off, the General threatened that if the daughter did not wed him, she would find her father stationed on the far side of the Forbidden Zone. "I will expect your answer in the morning," General Amar stated as he left the soldier and daughter.

Upon hearing of this, the Lawgiver paid a visit to General Amar, saying to him, "I am here to seek your advice, General. There are two gorillas who live in our fair city; the one a landholder and the other his tenant, indebted to him. The landholder has many cattle to give his family milk and cheeses, but the tenant has only one cow. Now, this lone cow he has nourished by hand, and she has the mildest of dispositions and gives the sweetest of milk products, and is to this childless gorilla almost as a daughter.

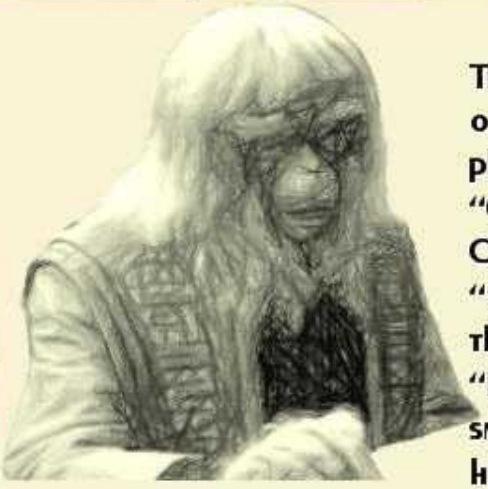
"One morning, there came a visitor of some renown to the mighty landholder. And he was loathe to take of his own cattle as a welcome gift for the traveling ape, but instead he took the tenant's lone cow, ostensibly to pay the debt, and presented it to the visiting ape that had come to him."

General Amar leapt to his feet in his anger against the landholder; and he said to the Lawgiver, "As the Almighty lives, the gorilla who has done this thing should surely pay! He should be made to restore that cow fourfold, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

The Lawgiver said to General Amar, "You are that ape." Speechless, the General sat in silence as the Lawgiver turned and left him.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XXXXI

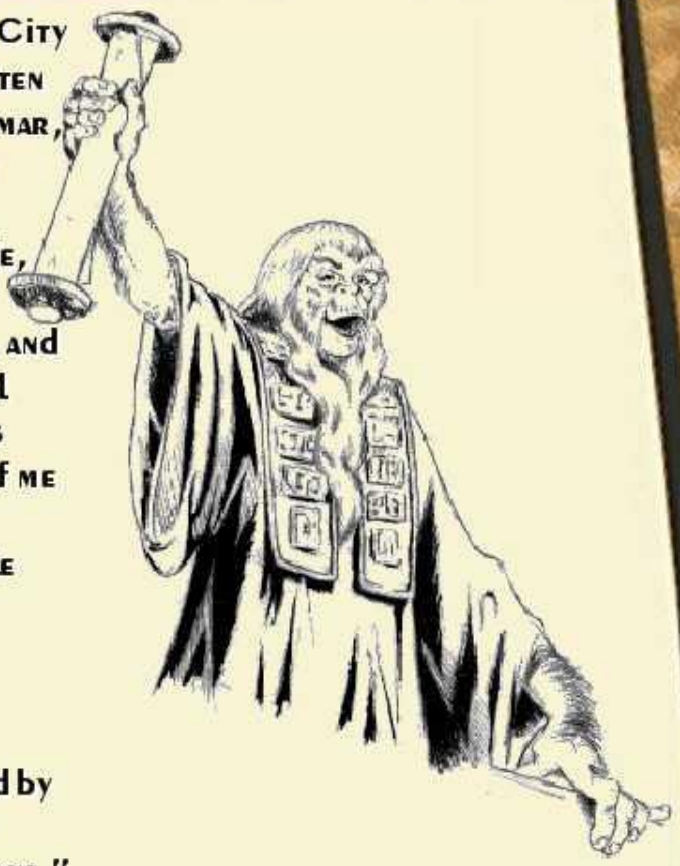


The Lawgiver sat with his granddaughter on his knee, enjoying the winds as they played among the colorful autumn leaves.
"Grandfather," she asked him, "Why did God make the leaves so pretty?"
"So that little she-apes could enjoy them."
"How did He do it?" The Lawgiver smiled down at his granddaughter, and hugged her close.

"Well, you see, in the beginning of all things," he began, "after man had blackened the world, there lived a clever chimpanzee named Leef. He was a great artist and created many colorful paintings for the apes of his city.
"One day, Leef was about to paint a picture, so he gathered his paints in their containers he had made from gourds. He had the colors of red, green, brown, and yellow.
"Leef began to paint on a canvas, when all of a sudden, God sent a huge whirlwind out of the east and it picked-up Leef's gourds and it blew his paints all over the trees nearby. Leaves of green, yellow, and red were everywhere.
"After the huge whirlwind went away, the apes of the city came out. They looked with wonder at the trees and said, 'Leef, you have that done something truly wonderful.'
"And Leef answered them, saying, 'It was the Almighty who did this. From now on, leaves on trees will be green, red, yellow, and brown and the world will be a much more beautiful place.' And from that day to this it has been so."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz — Number XXXXII



It was no secret around Ape City that the Lawgiver was not often in agreement with General Amar, and the General resented the Lawgiver for it.

To assuage his wounded pride, the General approached the Lawgiver in the marketplace, and raising his voice, the General bellowed, "O, wise one, it is known you do not approve of me or my military might; yet, without us, who would settle conflicts, and maintain harmony?"

The Lawgiver, wise to the General's tricks, answered, "When conflict is reconciled by conflict, some hard feelings remain. This is not harmonious."

"But then, are you saying there should be no enforcement of justice?" General Amar demanded.

"The wise ape accepts less than is his due, and does not blame or punish. For harmony seeks agreement, where justice demands payment," was the Lawgiver's quiet reply.

"What rubbish," the General bellowed again. "You talk against the natural order of things!"

"Ah, but my good General, nature is *impartial*; therefore it serves those who serve all. It is the fool who seeks to control others."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Howard

Number XLIII

The Lawgiver sat in his garden and meditated. His recent encounter with the coyote had disturbed him and he had not expected to see this creature again. He was fearful and upset that the simian world was going down the wrong path. General Amar walked into the garden and approached the wise orangutan.

"Sir, forgive me for intruding. You have been distracted lately and I just wanted to make sure you are alright." The Lawgiver stood up and faced the gorilla general.

"Thank you for your concern. I am worried that as the simian world unfolds, we are not taking care of the natural world. Our water must remain pure, our land fertile and our air clean."

General Amar bowed before the Lawgiver. "You are a wise and great teacher. Simians listen to your words of wisdom. If you instruct us to take care of the earth, it shall be so. I will follow your guidance and do what I can to protect the natural world as well as simian society. The Lawgiver felt relieved to hear that the gorilla general agreed with him about protecting the natural environment. He thanked General Amar for his concern and excused himself. He now had many lessons to write on how apes should preserve the environment.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Number XLIV

The Lawgiver was sitting with his granddaughter and a few of her friends. They had just finished their lunch, and were relaxing in the warm sunshine.

"Grandpa," little Neeka suddenly sat up. "Grandpa, how does God know everything?"

The Lawgiver smiled at his granddaughter, and saw that all her friends had also sat up, staring at him, wide-eyed.

"Well, that is because the Almighty is a limitless."

"Like the sky?" Gunto asked.

"Oh, more so. He is not filled by the world, He cannot be divided, tied, dimmed or stopped."

"But, why can't we see Him?" Neeka asked.

"Well, that is because His wonders are a moment and forever. No one knows where He is, except Heaven..." and here he touched each of the children as he spoke, "...but He can be seen and smelt and heard and tasted and touched in everyone and everything."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

by Elaine N. Howard

Number XLV

The Lawgiver was giving a lecture to the apes in a village near a river. The waters of the river were crystal clear and fish were abundant in them. The Lawgiver spoke of the river's beauty and the nourishment that sustains life when one drink's it's waters. He encouraged his listeners to preserve the natural beauty and pristine qualities of the river. If they polluted the river, they would go down the destructive path of man." Man oftens destroys the natural world and as simians we should respect what the Creator has given us." The apes listened intently. As the Lawgiver was speaking, a large, blue and green dragonfly landed near him. He could see her face, it was one of contentment.

Later, while he meditated in his garden, the dragonfly appeared again. "You are a wise and caring ape. If you work with the natural world, she will provide much for you. If you attempt to destroy her, she will incur her wrath upon simian civilization." Her eyes grew wide as she spoke. "I come when the natural world is thriving and well taken care of." The Lawgiver was relieved to see her instead of the coyote. "I hope to see you often and will teach my fellow simians the wisdom of your words." The dragonfly closed her eyes and disappeared.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz — Number XLVI

General Amar strode through the marketplace and reaching one of his gorilla sergeants, grabbed him by the shoulder and whirled him around.

"You!" he bellowed into the sergeant's face, "You disgrace the dignity of that uniform – of our race!"

The general then proceeded to beat the gorilla with his cudgel. So swiftly had the general caught his sergeant off guard that he could not even lift a finger to defend himself, only to block the blows raining down on him.

General Amar had almost beat the sergeant to death, when a heavy hand fell upon his arm, stopping him cold in mid-swing. The Lawgiver looked about as angry as anyone had ever seen him.

"You will not strike another blow, General," he stated, in a voice laced with controlled fury.

"This soldier, who is my business," General Amar sneered, beginning to get his ire up at the Lawgivers' interference, "he violated our most sacred trust, his oath to all over his singular desire."

"All apes are my business," the Lawgiver declared. "He shall be tried before his peers. Ape shall never kill ape." He motioned over to two soldiers who, getting a confirming nod from the general, took the sergeant away.

The following morning, General Amar was found dead, a broken neck at the bottom of a cliff he would ride his horse across every morn. His horse was never found. Some speculate that it was an accident, that he was thrown from his spooked horse. Others feel it was the Almighty's retribution for accosting his Prophet. We may never know.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XLVII

It was a sad day when the clan of Amar had the funeral for their General. Everyone was there, from the Central City to the outlying farms. General Amar may not have been especially well liked, but he was well known. Indeed, many of those who had in the past been on the receiving end of General Amar's well-known wrath, secretly considered this a small holiday.

After Minister Jadon conducted the funeral, the Lawgiver was asked to speak. In his concluding remarks, he had this to say:

"As the Almighty teaches us through nature -- men have no souls. It is we apes who are the only ones of God's creatures to have His Divine Spark.

"It is up to each and every one of us to make that Divine Spark grow, or die. When an ape displays his innate righteousness and justice, he is displaying the attributes of God. Only then can this Spark grow into a Divine Flame to envelope every aspect of his life.

"All ape's souls are immortal, but the souls of the righteous apes are both immortal and Divine."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XLVIII

General Drusus, successor to the now deceased General Amar, approached the Lawgiver in private, the morning after the passed general was laid to rest. "O, Wise One," General Drusus began, "I know you and my former commander did not always see eye to eye, but I believe he respected your wisdom."

The Lawgiver chuckled at that, but not overtly enough to be rude. "I see," was all he said.

"Yes, well," General Drusus continued, "Be that as it may, I am here to seek your advice, because I believe you are wise."

"Indeed," the Lawgiver replied, giving the new general his full attention, now. "How may I be of assistance?"

"I find I am in a position that I was not fully prepared to assume," General Drusus confessed, looking around to make sure he was not overheard. "I wish I had had more time to prepare."

"Let me give you a word of God's wisdom," the Lawgiver smiled, patting the general on the shoulder, "You see our nearby riverbed? Its source is hidden, yet it is forever flowing. So, too, like experience. Its source may not be apparent to us, yet, the Spirit of God moves within it. Draw upon your experiences under General Amar; you will find you are more prepared than you think."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Art by Glen Scheetz

Number XLIX

One day in Ape City the Lawgiver saw a Gorilla beating his human servant.

"Abstain, my son, abstain, I implore. Those who resort to violence shall suffer from violence.", the Lawgiver said to the Gorilla.

"That," said the Gorilla, diligently belaboring the human, "is what I'm trying to teach this human -- who has kicked me."

"Doubtless," said the lawgiver to himself, as he walked away, "the wisdom of fools is no deeper nor truer than ours, but they really do seem to have a more impressive way of imparting it."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Art by Glen Scheetz

Number 1

One morning a group of merchants came to the Lawgiver's home seeking advice. It seems the head of the merchants association had become power-mad in his position, imposing strict rules of all the other merchants.

"You're association is a democratic body, is it not?", inquired the Lawgiver.

"Yes it is", replied one of the merchants.

"And the head of the association is an elected official of the association?"

"Yes he is, Lawgiver", replied another merchant.

"then the solution is simple", exclaimed the Lawgiver, "In future, Just say no to the head".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Howard

Number LI

The Lawgiver was meditating in his garden when a young gorilla approached him. "Forgive me, Sir. But I need to speak with you. Your wisdom and insight can help me greatly. My father was a soldier for many years and he often spoke highly of you. He heeded your words of wisdom." The Lawgiver motioned for the young gorilla to sit down. "Your father was a great protector of simian society. I hope you will do the same." The young simian gazed sheepishly at the garden. "That is why I am here. I do not feel called to serve simian society in the army. My science degree is almost completed and I plan on pursuing my studies on how to grow more food. Especially the beloved banana which was my father's downfall, literally." The Lawgiver studied his eyes. "My father unfortunately was drunk when he slipped on a banana peel and hit his head. He was a wonderful father, husband and soldier but he loved his liquor." Both simians were silent for few moments. The Lawgiver continued studying the young ape. "You have seven brothers who all serve in the army. Your destiny is different. I heard you are an exceptional student and work hard." Silently, the Lawgiver wanted to convince him to join the army as all gorillas should. But here was an exception. The young gorilla bowed and thanked the lawgiver for his time. The Lawgiver put his hand on his shoulder. "I will be present at your graduation.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LII

Our first gods were the forces of nature, and they were feared by our ancestors. Yet while we were in darkness, worshipping natural forces, in the east there lived a special ape who followed a different path. He worshipped a God that was beautiful, a luminous being of real power. This ape taught that God had simian form but was much more powerful; yet like simians, He desired truth, honesty and love.

This ape taught that God was to be feared yes, in respect, but He was also to be loved. What's more, this ape enjoyed talking about God, as He seemed to be made for storytelling. He had tales to educate, tales to entertain, and tales with morals, and in those stories, God wasn't so far away and unreachable. It was comforting to hear that God wept for us, or laughed with us, or that God hoped with us as we struggled. In learning about God on such an intimate level, the apes could better understand the ravaged world around them.

This ape practiced a belief system that was monotheistic -- there was one God, living in heaven; yet, acting through sacred ceremonies, prayers, and even chosen apes – most especially this special ape, our Lawgiver.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LIII

A chimpanzee named Jacomus visited the Lawgiver one spring morning, from the outlying farms of Sinim, a province to the south of Ape City.

"O wise one, please forgive my intrusion," Jacomus began.

"Think nothing of it, my good ape. What can I do for you?" the Lawgiver asked.

"My problem is a seeming petty one, yet I am troubled for some reason," the chimpanzee explained.

"Well, what exactly is this seeming petty problem?"

"My neighbor, a slow-witted chimpanzee named Niad, copies everything I do."

"Indeed?"the Lawgiver replied,not quite seeing the problem. "And?"

"No, no, no. You do not understand," Jacomus cried, "He copies everything. His farm is virtually an identical copy of mine. If I plant beans, he plants beans. If I plant squash, he plants squash. It is driving me crazy."

"But why?" the Lawgiver asked, through a smile, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. To imitate someone is to pay that ape a genuine compliment -- often an unintended compliment."

"I had not thought of it that way,' the chimpanzee reflected. "Obviously, Niad has little or no imagination, but instead, relies on you for expanding his limited repertoire. Go home, Jacomus. Enjoy your small piece of admiration."

Lesson From The Lawgiver

Number LIV

The Lawgiver was visiting Katu, a small village upstream from Ape City, where a special banquet was held in his honor. At the banquet they served a milky white sauce that the residents seemed to spread on everything. The Lawgiver asked the prefect about this strange sauce. "It is an ancient delicacy called mayonnaise. An archaeologist unearthed the recipe very near here last summer.", replied the prefect.

The Lawgiver decided to try the strange sauce and loved it. He ordered that 100 urns be sent to Ape City. It took several weeks for the citizens of Katu to produce the 100 urns. When they were done all the urns were loaded on a boat for the journey to downstream.

All of Ape City gathered with the Lawgiver on the causeway to watch the boat from Katu approach when suddenly it struck a rock in the river and sunk. The Lawgiver turned to the crowd and said, "This is a dark day my fellow Simians and I declare this an official day of mourning". This day of mourning is celebrated in Ape City to this day and is known as 'Sinko the Mayo'.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine M. Howard

Number LV

The Lawgiver heard a knock at his door early one morning. Still half asleep, the wise simian opened his door to find two young orangutans debating. They had been up all night. "Sir, we apologize for disturbing you at this hour but we cannot reach an agreement. If a tree falls in the forest, it does not make a sound if no one is there to hear it. My friend says it does make a sound. Oh, wise Lawgiver, does the tree make a sound?" The Lawgiver pondered the question for a minute. He was angry at being disturbed so early but he didn't show it. He studied the serious faces of the young scholars. "The tree makes a noise depending on how one views the situation. Our eardrums are responsible for sound so the animals in the forest hear the sound of the tree when it falls. Yet, if no simians or animals are present, one could argue the tree does not make a sound. The lesson from this is seeing problems from different perspectives." Silently, the Lawgiver wasn't sure he liked his answer but he was still trying to wake up. The young orangutans thanked him and offered to take him out to breakfast. He politely declined and shut his door. The sun was rising and he heard a tree fall off in the distance, which he ignored.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LVI

The Lawgiver sat leaning against a tree, deep in meditation.

His disciple Proteus quietly approached, and sat near him in respectful silence.

After a moment, the Lawgiver spoke up, saying, "Ah, good Proteus, how are you this fine morning?"

"How ever did you know it was me, Master?" Proteus asked.

The Lawgiver opened his eyes, "A good question. I knew, because I listen to the voice of the Almighty."

Proteus asked, with not a little astonishment, "You've heard the voice of God?"

The Lawgiver replied, with a smile, "When I meditate, yes. You see, when the wind blows, all of nature echoes with sound. Look at the trees, swaying, rustling. Look at our river, with its deep pools and shallow ponds, splashing and burbling. All of nature joins in with the sound of the wind, soughing, laughing, and sighing. Initially the wind sings one note; the rest of nature sings other notes. Gentle breezes whisper softly; gusty winds call loudly. All of this is a symphony of sound."

Proteus shook his head perplexedly, saying, "But, did you not say you heard the voice of God?"

The Lawgiver replied, "Yes. The sounds of the wind, the sounds of nature, they are the voice of the Almighty. And you must sit very quiet and still on the outside to hear Him. But you must sit even more quietly on the inside to understand Him."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number LVII

The Lawgiver loved all children and made it a habit to visit the local schools whenever he had the time. At one school he noted that the chimpanzees all played together, the gorillas all played together, the organutans played together and the humans all played together each in a seperate corner of the school yard. He asked the headmaster about this seperation. "they just all gravitate to their own kind when out of class", the headmaster explained.

The Lawgiver asked that all the children be gathered together for he wished to speak to them. He spoke softly, "God placed ape & man on this earth to live together in peace. You children are the future. Please learn to live and play to together now. If you wait until you are adults it will be too late and our civilization will be doomed." The children stared back at the Lawgiver in silence. He feared his words had no effect.

Then one chimp turned and walked up to a human and said, "Hi my name is Casius. what's yours?".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LVIII

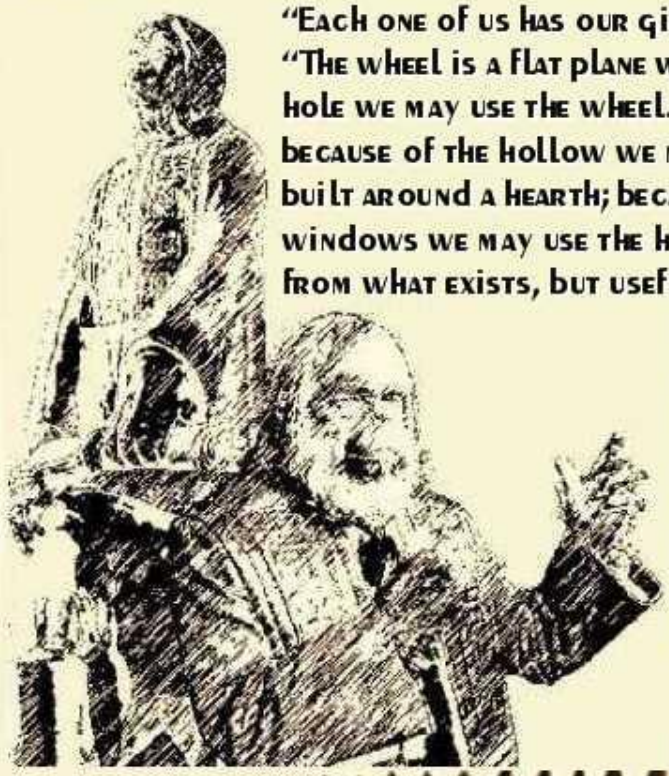
It is written that Xanthe was small, even as orangutans go. He was only a little taller than a meter. Some say it was because of his father, who had a childhood fall that bent his back. Some say it was because of his mother, who was ill when she carried him. When he was young, his peers made fun of him. Consequently, Xanthe was a loner, with one passion – he loved to read.

It is also written that, one day, he had a private audience with our Lawgiver that changed all of our lives..

"O' Great One," Xanthe asked, in his mild voice, "Why would the merciful Creator make me useless like I am?"

"Useless?" the Lawgiver asked. "Why do you claim to be useless?"

"Because, Great One, I am so small, so insignificant. Other apes overlook me as if I do not exist." Xanthe was almost in tears.



"Each one of us has our gifts," the Lawgiver consoled. "The wheel is a flat plane with a hole; because of the hole we may use the wheel. Clay is molded into a cup; because of the hollow we may use the cup. Walls are built around a hearth; because of the doors and windows we may use the house. Thus, a use arises from what exists, but usefulness from what does not.

"You need only to find your use, my son."

It is also written, and is well known amongst all apes, that little, insignificant Xanthe became the scribe for the Sacred Scrolls.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz Number LIX

Avitian, the late General Amar's second son, swaggered up to the Lawgiver, dozing under the spreading tree at the edge of the market-square with General Drusus. The two of them had spent most of the hot day in the council amphitheater, locked in debate, and had only recently retired to this cool shade.

Raising his voice, he decried to the gathering crowd, "What is this? I know our new general to be lazy, but our Lawgiver as well? It is a pity." General Drusus sat-up and eyed the growing crowd.

The Lawgiver yawned, scratched his ear, opened his eyes and sat up as well. "Yes, it is a pity," he commented.

Taken aback by the agreement, Avitian stared a moment, slack-jawed. "What is?" he finally stammered, condescendingly.

"That you have not learned from your lamentable father's mistakes. You see, fill a sated guest's cup to its brim and it is a drink wasted. Temper a sword too hard and it is a tool easily broken. Amass an overt amount of food and it is stores easily spoilt. Claim credit and honor unearned and you easily fall."

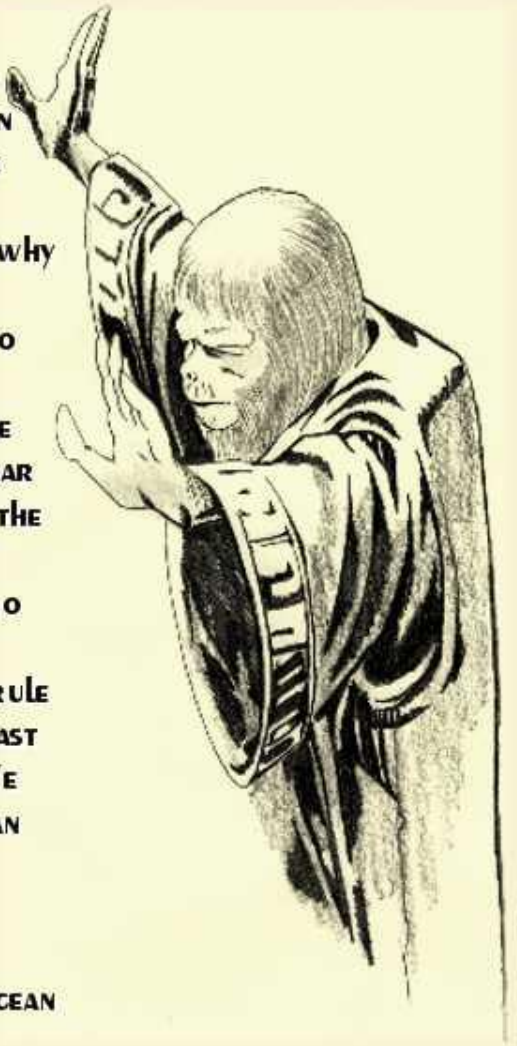
The crowd chuckled at the slight to Avitian, one that he obviously did not perceive.

"To retire once your purpose is achieved, this is not laziness -- this is the Almighty's welcome gift, which is always renewed."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Howard/Art by Glen Scheetz

Number LX



The Lawgiver called the apes together for a class on the beach. Gorillas, chimps and orangs sat in groups, a good distance from the ocean.

"I suppose you are all wondering why I called you here today?"

The simians paid close attention to their beloved teacher.

"Like myself, most of you or maybe all of you....are uncomfortable near water. Humans tried to conquer the ocean and they failed. The sea is powerful and she bows down to no one. But humans do not fear the ocean. We simians allow fear to rule us and we do not learn from the vast sea that contains abundant life. We cannot master the ocean but we can respect the powerful forces of nature that inhabit our planet. In order for us to grow as a civilization, we must travel the ocean and learn all we can."

The simian audience listened intently to their elder.

"We learn to live in harmony with the seas, respecting life that dwells there and utilizing her resources wisely. Many of you will learn to harvest food and medicine from the depths of the seas."

Chimps, gorillas and orangutans were all wide-eyed and nervous. But their leader had spoken and they would heed his words.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXI

The Lawgiver entered the examination room, followed closely by his ever-present, loyal, shadow, Xanthe. A new find of ancient simian artifacts had been uncovered, and the Lawgiver was always welcomed by the archeologists to help identify the peculiar finds' uses.

While they were examining the new artifacts, Xanthe discovered a formerly brightly colored semi-spherical object that fit in the palm of his hand. It was bisected by a groove that ran around its equator. He absent-mindedly ran his fingers about it, and discovered a small ring of pliable material that just fit his finger, sticking out of the groove. Not thinking of any consequences, he slipped his finger into the ring. Instantly, it snugged up! In a purely reflexive move, Xanthe sought to toss the spheroid aside, but, to his amazement, the object merely shot away from him, still attached to the ring by a thin but strong filament!

The spheroid suddenly began to emit sparks and to make the most horrendous popping and snapping noises ever to assail his ears! When it reached the full length of the filament, it jerked to a stop, then returned along the filament, it being wound back into the spheroid, to land in the palm of his hand again with a slap.

He reflexively clamped his hand onto the spherical object once more, and stood there, wide-eyed, with his hand extended.

The Lawgiver quietly approached him, reached out, and removed the object from Xanthe's hand, and gently set it back on the table, commenting, "Perhaps we should leave the examining to the specialists, shall we?"

He smiled, and Xanthe nodded.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Dave Ballard

Number XLII

From the 32nd scroll, third verse (not for public display)

And in their midst shall stride an abomination, a hairless beast to mock our father's tongue, capable of nothing but death and destruction.

Nought but lies shall prosper in his shadow, nought but corruption shall flower in his wake. Pay no heed to his wisdom for therein lies the seed of all evil.

Stay thy wrath and slay him not, for not by mortal hand is he destined to fall.

At the twilight of a world, at the last campaign twixt faith and reason, his fate, and that of all God's chosen will be at last resolved.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Dave Ballard

Number XLIII

From the teachings of Darius

As the Lawgiver took solace in the beauty of the world his eye was drawn to a study of discontent.

"What ails you?" He enquired of the disciple that shared with him that space and time. "Share with me your woes and bestow upon me the honour of bringing you peace."

The student then confessed that which had caused him distress.

"In class we made a study of the Beast called, Man. The teacher set a simple test by which to measure intelligence and skill. I was chosen to participate, and in my anxiety of being the centre of such attention, did fumble in my task, performing hardly better than the beast by which I was being measured against."

The Lawgiver nodded. "But were you not allowed to perform the test again?"

To which the student replied: "I was, this time I made myself calm inside as you have taught and performed with my usual skill."

"And the Beast", enquired the lawgiver, "did it too manage to better its previous result?"

The student shook his head. "It did not. But that which causes me pain is how, under so little pressure I differed not from that which I despise."

The Lawgiver considered as he basked in the glory of the setting sun and at length delivered his conclusion.

"It is said, that the difference between Ape and Man, is that the Ape is capable of learning from having made a mistake.

I bid you then to go your way in peace, oh wise and noble friend."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine M. Howard

Number LXIV

The Lawgiver gathered apes from the village on the beach again. Orangs, chimps and gorillas sat nervously on the sand and whispered among themselves. The Lawgiver called them to attention and introduced a young female orangutan named Ariadne. She bowed slightly towards the crowd.

"My young friend here has command of the ship you see out on the water."

"The Simian Soul" a majestic schooner rocked gently among the waves. The apes watched the boat and their eyes grew wide.

"Except for the human slaves who aid in the ship's navigation and meal preparation, Ariadne has only one other ape to help her explore the seas. I am asking for volunteers to join her in expanding the apes world."

Ariadne spoke with authority. "Our beloved Lawgiver is asking you to search your soul and join me on a quest. The day has come for simians to lose their fear of water and fully conquer our world. Please join me."

Silence hung heavy in the air for what seemed like eternity. The Lawgiver studied his students and waited patiently. Finally several chimps, orangs and two gorillas stepped forward. The Lawgiver praised them for their courage to participate in an unknown journey to expand the simian world.

Ariadne led the apes to a rowboat where they would board "The Simian Soul" and begin a new life.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXV

After having many deep debates, time and again, over what is proper and what is improper conduct for civilized apes, the Lawgiver set down these

Articles of Faith

I

Behold, the Almighty created the ape in his own image. He gave to him alone a soul and a mind, setting him apart from the beasts in the jungle and making him the lord of the planet.

II

For, inasmuch as the Almighty created the ape in his own image, naturally then, all apes are created equal.

III

The beast, man, has no soul. The Divine spark, the blessed gift of the Almighty, exists only in the simian brain. Therefore, unequivocally, men cannot be tamed.

IV

For, insofar as it is a mortal sin to abuse this Divine spark, this gift of the Almighty, hence, ape shall never kill ape.

V

All apes, regardless of status, shall honor the elders of their province, heeding their humble words, for they study the proper ways of the Almighty.

VI

To honor this Divine spark, no ape shall ever covet thy neighbor; his property, his livestock, nor his family.

VII

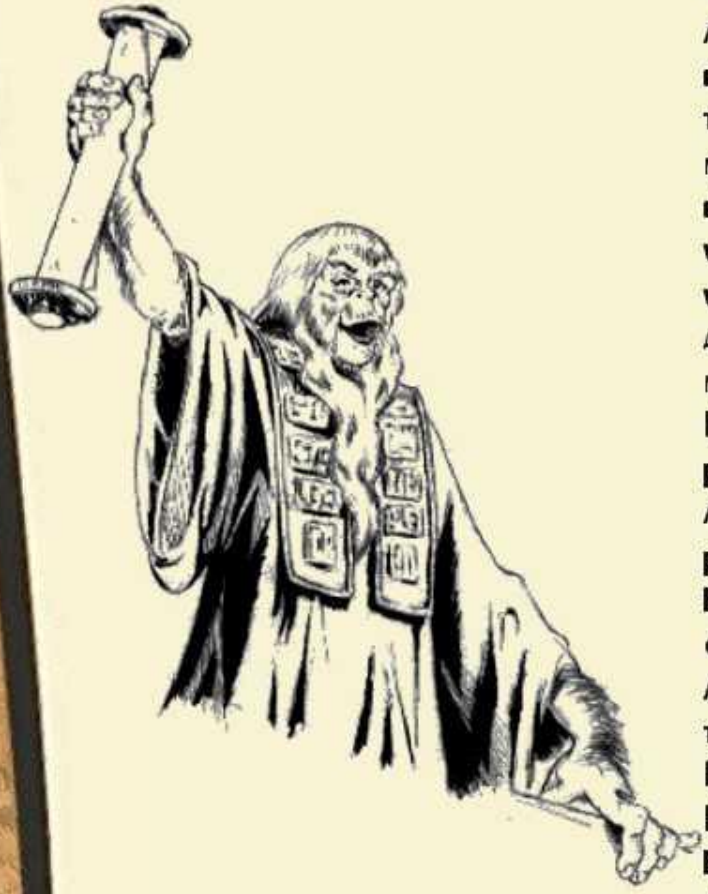
No ape shall commit thievery upon his neighbor; but, instead, all shall provide for the less fortunate. This is not in promotion of slothfulness, nay, for idle laziness is the mark of the beast.

VIII

Every apes shall always speak only the words of truthfulness, for the lying tongue is the bane of civilization.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz — Number LXVI



The deceased General Amar's twin sons were engaged in a debate about their perspectives upon mankind. Avular, the eldest, felt that although it was wise to be prepared, it was foolish to expend apepower on seeking out men to hunt. Avitian, who loved the hunt, felt man was put on earth by the Almighty for target practice.

Because of his outspoken dislike for the beast man, Avitian asked the Lawgiver to settle their dispute, feeling he would side with him.

But, the Lawgiver surprised them both with his answer.

"Armies are tools of violence," the Lawgiver replied, "and they cause apekind to hate and to fear. The spiritual ape will not join them. His purpose is creation, their purpose is destruction.

"Weapons are tools of violence, not of the spiritual ape, for he finds no beauty in them. Whoever finds beauty in weapons delights in the slaughter, and whoever delights in slaughter cannot content himself with peace. So slaughters must be mourned, and conquest celebrated with a funeral."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Dave Ballard

Number LXVIIa

From the Teachings of Solomon – Part 1

"You are each of equal worth", said, The Lawgiver, to the three that were sat before him. "And each has followed where I would lead thus far, but hereon, for two of you, there must be now a parting of the ways. Our journey, henceforth, shall pursue a separate path."

"And how will it be, Lawgiver, that you will choose the most worthy among us?" Asked the students.

"Tomorrow, just before dawn, we will again assemble at this place of tranquillity and here, each shall be witness to a miracle. The one chosen will be he among you that seven days later, can equal the majesty of what they will see."

The next day, in the moments preceding the rising of the sun the students gathered and found the Lawgiver bathed in the beauty of a new day being made. He held aloft a humble piece of coal and, with a deft movement of his wrist there was a flash of light. In his hand he now held a sparkling diamond of singular beauty.

"You have seven days," he said, and without another word left them to contemplate what they had seen. Feeling cheated by the obvious trick they discussed with some contempt the use of powders and sleight-of-hand but nevertheless they disbanded to assemble the necessary items and practice the illusion.

To Be Continued...

Lesson From the Lawgiver

By Dave Ballard

Number LXVIIB

From the Teachings of Solomon

Part 2

They gathered again in the place of tranquillity and each was invited in turn to match the glory of what they had seen the week before.

The first student managed to seemingly change a piece of coal into a coin of shining gold.

The second fumbled in the execution of his task and succeeded only in setting one sleeve aflame.

The final student did nothing but simply sat and closed his eyes.

Hours passed in this fashion and his companions began to grumble until The Lawgiver bade them hush. The night progressed slowly until at last the sun again began to rise in the sky.

Only then did the final student open his eyes. "There", he said.

The Lawgiver smiled, "Bid your friends farewell and follow me".

"But he did nothing!" the other students angrily accused. "Why is it then that you would favour him over us?"

"Because he alone showed us again the miracle of seven days before", was the reply. "He alone was not distracted by tricks and sleight of hand. He alone drank in the beauty of a new dawn and appreciated it for what it was."

And now the students grew even more incensed. "The sun rising in the sky is not a miracle," they argued, "It happens each and every day!"

"That it happens each and every day makes it no less of a miracle." The Lawgiver explained. "The beast, Man is forever damned to reject this simple truth and is thus banished into the shadow of despair."

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

Art by Glen Scheetz/Colored by Dave Ballard Number LXVIII

The Lawgiver was on his annual tour of farming communities to the west & south of Ape City. In one village a poor Chimpanzee farmer presented him with an ancient scroll.
"I dug this up last year during the planting season and thought you should have it", said the farmer humbly.
The Lawgiver unrolled the delicate paper and read the centuries old writing:

After the night of fires man unleashed the vilest war in his history. Men fought Apes. Apes fought men. And men fought each other. Our savior protected us from this carnage as best he could. Then one day he said we must leave man's city where we first gained our freedom. Many apes did not want to go for they had spent their whole lives in the great city. But Caesar said we needed to leave to survive, so we followed him.
The trek through the wilderness was long and hard. Several apes, and some of the human slaves we took with us, collapsed from exhaustion. For many it was only the sight of our savior leading us that kept them going.
After many days there was a flash from the great city we had abandoned. A huge ball of fire ascended over it in to the sky. A great storm of wind blew across the now wasteland engulfing us. This didn't discourage any ape but rather filled us with reslove for once again Caesar had saved us.
The next day we came upon a beautiful valley of rich fertile land. When we had descended into the valley Caesar spoke to us, "It is here we will seek a new beginning! It is here will found our culture! It is here we will fulfill our destiny! It is here that we build our first city! And from this day forward it shall be called APE CITY!"

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXIX

Shortly after Leggedare had been accepted as Central City's Lawgiver, it became commonplace for the gorillas to venture into the ruins where man had once held sway. There, in the devastated cities, they played at "war-games".

Shortly thereafter though, a strange sickness overtook all who entered man's fallen domain. They became short of breath. Their hair would fall out in unsightly clumps. They could barely keep any food down. Naturally, they would grow weaker.

Oddly, this new sickness was not contagious, however it was noticed that only those who went into the ruined cities for any length of time caught this sickness, and as they stayed away and drank clear water with herbs, they got better. In fact, as they recuperated, over time, their hair even grew back.

One formidable gorilla, Gula by name, was not so easily deterred. He ventured into the ruins, even after his teeth began to fall out. One morning, he was found dead in the stables, oozing blood from his mouth, ears and nose.

This was enough for the Lawgiver.

He had Gula's body laid out in the amphitheater, and had a map strung up on the wall for everyone to see. He called all the city elders together into a public forum, with Xanthe acting as scribe, and declared, "The areas of former human habitation are now forbidden for apes to tread upon. The human diseases fester there. The beastly aftereffects of human influence are deadly to the ape. This," and here he marked Xs across a portion of the map, "marks the boundary of the Forbidden Zone."

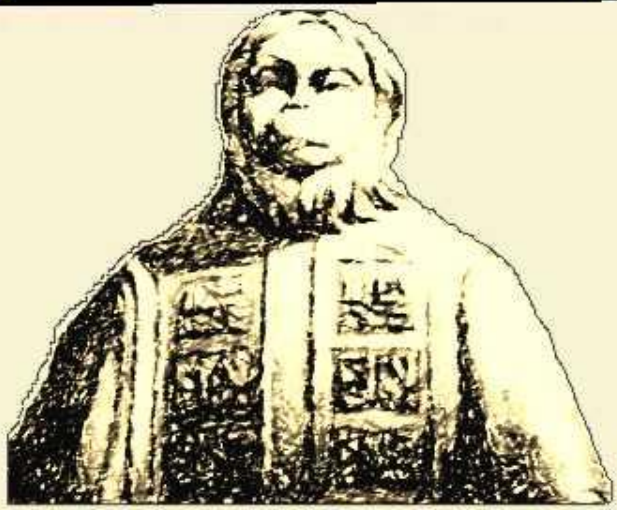
He set down his charcoal and turned to the populace, saying, "The wise ape will heed my words. The foolish ape will seal his own death."

All eyes turned to the corpse of Gula, and they agreed.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine Howard

Number LXX



Captain Ariadne watched and guided the "Simian Soul" back to land. The journey had been long and intense. They had battled ape pirates, human pirates and a variety of other characters. But all the humans and apes aboard survived and she was anxious to speak with the Lawgiver for advice and counsel. She also had studied the natural world on various continents and had brought back a few animals. One of her finds included a pair of gibbons, white apes who were devoted to each other. When the ship docked in the harbor, she summoned the Lawgiver. "Sir, it gives my heart hope to see you again. I have traveled far and wide with my crew of simians and humans. Shortly, we will return to the high Seas. What do you think about these apes I have found. They are intelligent, do not speak and are clearly mongonomous." The Lawgiver was fascinated by the small white apes who gazed at the wise orangutan and were found of the young orangutan captain. "You are exploring this world, Ariadne and you will discover many new things. It always is a pleasure to find apes we were unaware of. You are indeed an explorer and I commend you on your determination to expand our horizons. I will speak of your accomplishments and write about you in my papers." Ariadne bowed towards the beloved leader and returned to her ship.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number LXXI

Aaron, an elder of the human community, visited the Lawgiver one evening. Something of great weight was on Aaron's mind.

"Lawgiver", said Aaron, "many of my kind feel that you hate humans".

"Aaron my friend, apes and humans have lived in peace for 600 years. We are partners on this earth. Why would your brethren feel that I hate them?" asked the Lawgiver disturbed by Aaron's pronouncement.

"Many of your recent writings speak of things like 'Beware the beast man' and 'evil men who betrayed god's trust'. We fear they will stir anti-human sentiments in some apes."

"I was not writing about modern humans but of the ancient ones." replied the Lawgiver, "Men who waged war against their fellow humans and enslaved my ancestors. Today's human has learned to reject these base instincts and live in peace. No ape would ever confuse the two. And if some did I would correct their error."

Aaron was relieved for the moment but then asked, "What of future generations of apes? Will they understand the difference?"

For once the Lawgiver had no answer.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number LXXII

For several months trade caravans between Ape City & outlying farming villages were being raided by human bandits. Finding the humans' hideout had become the top priority of the Gorilla security forces led by Colonel Octavian. They searched in vain for many weeks.

Then during a raid on another caravan one of the human bandits was captured. He was brought to Octavian's headquarters for questioning. When the Lawgiver arrived to see the prisoner, several Gorillas were torturing him. Outraged Lawgiver stormed into Octavian's office.

"What abomination are your troops engaged in!?!", he demanded.

"We are merely questioning the prisoner" replied Octavian, "The human was not forthcoming with the location of his compatriots' hideout, and so we needed to take a tougher approach to persuade him".

"Such methods are against the will of God", admonished the Lawgiver, "the righteous Ape does not resort to them even against a human!"

The Lawgiver relived Octavian of command immediately. He was sent back to Ape City in disgrace.

When tortured the prisoner had only given false infomation, wasting the time &efforts of the security forces. But soon several other bandits were captured. The Lawgiver questioned all of them himself. One finally revealed the whereabouts of their hideout and all the bandits were rounded up & arrested.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz — Number LXXIIIa

Part I

The populace of Ape City was at its wits end. The twin sons of the deceased General Amar, Avular and Avitian, were constantly engaging in surprise attacks upon their fellow apes, to which they always claimed that this was to hone their skills as future generals. Now, this in itself was not too bad a thing, as none of the traps were lethal. But they kept rigging booby-traps in unexpected places throughout the City, and the unsuspecting and unwary were the ones falling victim to them, scaring them half to death. The populace began to worry that some elder would be hurt.

The Council finally complained to General Drusus about them.

But, General Drusus did not have the power; it seemed, to stop them. The twins each had their own following of gorilla soldiery, both totaling more apes than even Drusus himself could command.

So, General Drusus complained to Junias, Avular and Avitian's mother.

However, even Junias could make no headway with the two upstarts. They laughed at her, and called her an "old she-ape," and told her to go boil some roots, or something.

Finally the Council complained to the Lawgiver, who had just recently returned from a long retreat into the mountains.

After explaining their problem indepthly, they lamented, "Lawgiver, we do not know what to do!"

After sitting in quiet contemplation for a while, the Lawgiver said to them, "Leave them to me."

"What will you do?" they asked.

"Teach them," was his cryptic response, as he ambled away.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXIIIb

Part II

The Lawgiver went to the rambunctious child-apes of the City, gathering them together out in the tall, grassy fields, where he engaged them in a project of who could make the thinnest, strongest grass-ropes. The reward was to be a large basket of sweet fruits the Lawgiver had brought with him. This took most of the morning. The winner was a nimble-digited chimpanzee, Galu, who won the fruity prize, and properly shared it with all his peers.

Then, the Lawgiver went to the she-apes of the City, gathering their sewing circle together and engaged them in a project of weaving the lightest, strongest netting that they could make out of the grass-ropes. The reward was a box of stainless steel sewing needles and spools of brightly colored threads and yarns that the Lawgiver had with him. This took most of the afternoon and evening. The winner was old mother Agrippina, who invited all her peers to enjoy her winnings with her.

Next, the Lawgiver went to the young, intelligent and industrious apes of the City, gathering them together in a quiet storeroom where he had carefully laid out some woven grass-rope nets. He engaged them in a special project for the benefit of everyone in the City. The reward would be an end to the harassment from Avular and Avitian, and the gratitude of the populace. This would take most of the night.

Lastly, the Lawgiver invited Junias to dinner.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXIIIc

Part III

Junias was fine company for the Lawgiver. Of course he well knew her, having had many an occasion to dine with her deceased husband, General Amar, but this occasion was different. He knew she was upset, and not a little embarrassed by her sons' actions.

"The General may have been impetuous at times, but he was never this foolish. Oh, I do not know what I am to do," she lamented to the Lawgiver. He poured her a generous cup of peach brandy, to which she gratefully took a taste.

"Mmm, that is delicious," she replied, taking another drink.

"You look like you could use a little spirits," the Lawgiver replied, refilling her cup. And so the night went on.

After some time, though, Junias had drunk far too much to go home, which had been the Lawgiver's plan all along. He convinced her to stay the night.

He had his valet's wife turn out the guest bedroom for her, and they carefully tucked her in snug and warm. The valet's wife stayed with Junias, in case she needed anything in the night.

The next morning the whole City, including Junias accompanied by the Lawgiver, turned out to find Avular and Avitian caught up in the air, trapped in the grass-rope netting that had been ingeniously strung up around the entrance to their home. They were completely immobilized, and were loudly demanding to be let loose.

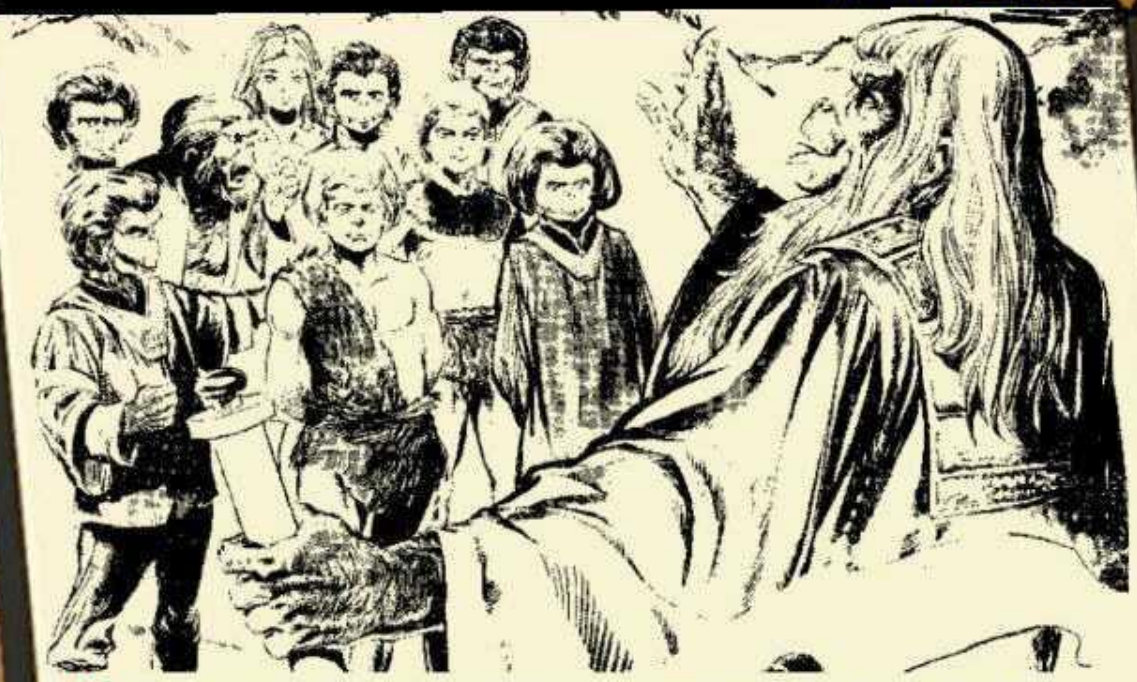
The Lawgiver turned to Junias with a questioning look on her face.

"Leave them hanging up there for a few days. Thirst and discomfort, not to mention embarrassment should make them see reason," Junias said, turning her back on them. The Lawgiver took her arm and they started off.

The Council stopped the Lawgiver and asked him how he had managed to come up with such an ingenious idea. He replied, "It is very simple. If you cannot beat them, arrange to have them beaten."

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

Number LXXIV



On the Lawgiver's weekly visit to Ape City's school, the little McDonald girl raised her hand with a question.

"It was so sad that Aldo killed little Cornelius. Did Caesar & Lisa ever have another child?", she asked.

"No", replied the Lawgiver, "Lisa was consumed with remorse the rest of her days. She was never the same and died only a few years later. Some said she died of a broken heart".

"Poor Caesar!", muttered one of the children.

"Yes, he lived alone for many years after that", continued the Lawgiver, "but despite his grief he ruled as a benevolent king. Then Caesar met Zeta, a young & kind chimpanzee. He fell in love again. They were soon married and Zeta gave him many children to begin the Caesrian dynasty".

"So the story has a happy ending", said the McDonald girl.

"Happy for some, unhappy for others", replied the Lawgiver, "if not for Zeta then little Gaius would not be here to pull on your pigtales".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Robinson/Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXV

One of the Lawgiver's duties in addition to teaching was performing wedding ceremonies. He was called upon to perform four ceremonies in one day and he was very nervous. The wise old orangutan arrived at a large garden where two young chimps and their families waited eagerly to be betrothed. The ceremony went smoothly and the couple and their guests left to celebrate at a local restaurant. The Lawgiver breathed a sigh of relief. "One down, three to go."

The next ceremony was interrupted by the female gorilla's ex-fiance, who was drunk and shouting "I love you" throughout the ceremony. Finally, angry relatives hauled him away.

At the next ceremony, the Lawgiver's eyes almost popped out of his head. A rather large female gorilla was marrying a very tiny male chimp. The couple appeared to be in love so the Lawgiver just performed the ceremony and tried not to stare at the odd looking couple.

At the last wedding of the day, two elderly orangutans arrived in wheel chairs being pushed by hospital staff. It took several minutes to prod the groom awake, who appeared to be unresponsive. A female chimp pinched his arm and he screamed "leave me alone!" The Lawgiver could feel himself becoming light-headed. The old orangutans were also hard of hearing and they shouted their vows.

At the end of the day, the Lawgiver who usually doesn't drink alcohol, found a bar and ordered several shots of whiskey.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz — Number LXXVIa

Part I

The Forbidden Zone had been effectively closed by the decree of the Lawgiver, which the Council of Elders and most of the populace had agreed to.

On parchment, there was a detailed map of Ape City, the surrounding fields and farms, and the outlying jungles – all bordered by the "X's" the Lawgiver had marked to delineate the Forbidden Zone. But, "X's" on parchment did not stop everyone. There were those thick-skulled gorillas who insisted on pushing their boundaries, and playing their war-games closer and closer to the ancient, crumbling ruins of mankind's downfall. The Lawgiver, thus, proposed in Council that there be erected a series of actual delineating markers, so there would be no mistaking what was the God-blessed lands, and what was the Forbidden Zone. There was one problem with this plan, though. Who would erect these markers?

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protcus/Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXVIb

Part II

When Avular, son of the late General Amar, heard of the plan, he realized he could get back into Ape City's good graces by heading the team to erect the markers. He went to his twin brother, Avitian, and laid out his plan. However, Avitian was nowhere near the same mind as Avular. He preferred to let all the enmity they had incurred from their ape fellows take care of itself. He thought Avular to be a fool to put himself out for the City's forgiveness. "But, brother," Avular practically pleaded, "I need your help." Avitian only laughed, and wished his brother well on his fool's journey.

Undaunted, Avular approached the Council with his plan. At first, the elders were reticent to accept his idea, but then, the Lawgiver spoke up in his favor. It was set, then. Avular would lead a hand-picked team of gorillas, all violators of the Lawgivers' decree, to erect these markers the very next day.

The day's journey out was uneventful. They arrived at a barren bluff, overlooking an expanse of almost universal flatness. In the dusky eastern distance naked girders of twisted and par-melted steel stabbed at the darkening sky, barely discernable. Unconcerned, the gorilla team set-up camp, preparing to erect the markers first thing in the morning. No one had ever spent the night in the Forbidden Zone. All the illegal excursions had occurred during the daylight hours. Avular, however, was not concerned. He mind was only occupied with tomorrow's task. But, that night, everything changed.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXVIc

Part III

It started with the lightning. Lightning out of the clear, night sky in the east. This disturbed the tranquility of the gorilla's sleep for awhile. Then, it struck randomly, closer and closer, until it was hitting all about them. They were on the verge of panic, when it suddenly stopped. As the apes settled again, some hours after the lightning desisted, distant rumblings echoed out of the distance. They rapidly approached, shaking and quaking the cliffs and hills surrounding the camp. The horses panicked, and bolted off into the dark, in all directions. The team spent most of the rest of the night rounding-up their horses, packs and supplies.

Somehow, the gorillas managed to make it through the night. They set to work erecting the markers as soon as it was light enough for them to see their hands before their faces. The job itself was simple, but after a night of frayed nerves and sleeplessness, tempers were extremely short with everyone. Added to that, the day brought tenacious insects that would not leave the apes alone. There was intermittent buzzing; distracting the gorillas and annoying them, yet no insects could be seen. Yet, the buzzing continued throughout the day. Avular tried in vain to keep his team on their task, but small fights seemed to break out everywhere, with the least provocation, almost as if they were goaded into violence.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXVIb

Part IV

Despite all that had happened, however, the markers were finally built and erected as the Lawgiver had designed them to be. Unfortunately, it was almost sundown by the time they finished, so Avular decided they would spend one more night here. This did not go over very well. There was grumbling and murmuring amongst the gorillas against spending another night here, but, Avular was team leader, and his word was to be obeyed. So with a lot of sour and surly expressions, the gorillas set about making ready for a second night on the edge of the Forbidden Zone, as the sun set.

No sooner had the sentries been posted, and the balance of the team settled down for the night, when a howling wind roared out of the east, rapidly approaching. The wind wreaked havoc through the camp, even to tossing supplies into the air, to come crashing down on the unprotected heads of gorillas. Then, it suddenly died. Avular ordered the rounding up of the horses, and securing of the camp.

Once again, after hours of stressful agitation, the gorillas settled down to sleep. Immediately, flames exploded all around the camp, roaring with an ungodly wailing rush. That was all it took. The gorillas abandoned their camp to an ape, even Avular. Those that could grab a plunging mount sped away on horseback. Those who could not ran on foot.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz — Number LXXVII

Part V

Of the twelve gorillas sent out, including Avular, that were on the team to erect the markers along the Forbidden Zone, only three returned to Ape City the following day. They straggled in, one at a time, and collapsed, unconscious. Two of the gorillas remained incoherently delirious and died of the fever they had contracted the day following their return. And the sole survivor, a young gorilla named Tibus, was never right in the head from that day forward. He would sit, mumbling to himself, and then suddenly grab at passerby's and try to tell them of the horrors visited upon him and his compatriots in the Forbidden Zone. But, of course, no one really believed him. After all, they were only the ravings of a fever-deranged ape.

The Lawgiver and the Council agreed that the gorilla team had contracted a rare fever in the desert, and succumbed to the hallucinations arising therefrom. Unfortunately, the other nine apes must have gotten lost in the desert, and perished from the disease. "Which is a painful and expensive lesson to learn," the Lawgiver lamented, "to prove my point beyond all refuting. The Forbidden Zone must remain closed for all time, that this never happens again."

And, there was one other casualty to this incident. Avitian became a monk, and took a vow of silence for the rest of his short life, out of self-blame for not being with his brother when he needed him.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXVII

Caelus was an archaeologist supreme, acknowledged as such even amongst his chimpanzee peers. His methods of locating, extracting and preserving the past were beyond compare, even to getting ancient parts to move in forgotten devices.

One afternoon, he showed up on the Lawgiver's doorstep, out of breath, holding a small rectangular box that gleamed in the sunlight. He hurriedly explained to the Lawgiver that this artifact had been sitting in his windowsill for many days, when his grandniece depressed one of the buttons, and it began to talk! He rushed over immediately, so the Lawgiver could hear it.

"'...and there were apes everywhere!" the first voice out of the box exclaimed.

"'Apes?" a second voice questioned.

"'Yes, apes! They were civilized," the first voice continued. *"They had language and built structures. They even rode horses!"*

"'Well, they do sound civilized."

"'They appeared to have taken over the world. But the worst part was," the first voice elaborated, *"Mankind was reduced to primitive barbarism. He was hunted, and used for experimentation!"*

"'All by apes?" the second voice asked.

"'All by apes," the first voice confirmed. *"There were gorillas; they rode the horses and hunted. And there were chimpanzees; that did all the experimenting. And there were orangutans; they gave the orders."*

"'I see," the second voice nodded. *"And how do you feel this morning, after seeing this as but a dream, sparked by a little too much 'holiday cheer?"*

"'Well, it was New Years eve, after all. I'm fine, now, I suppose..." Right then, a soft buzzing interrupted the voices. *"It's the Oval Office,"* the first voice resumed. *"I have to get to a special meeting. Sounds urgent."*

"'Well, my suggestion is to put this dream behind you, Dr. Hasslein."

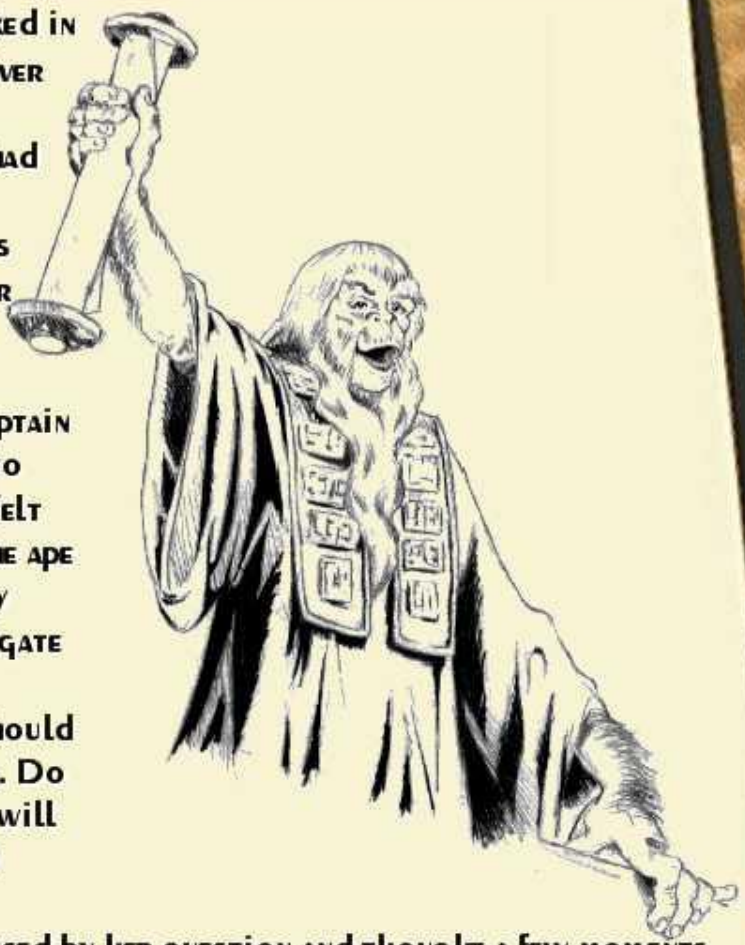
"'You're probably right. Who ever heard of civilized apes..."'

The Lawgiver and Caelus just looked at each other as the box ground down to silence, its solar batteries as dead as the voices on the recording.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

by Elaine Robinson/Art by Glen Scheetz

Number LXXVIII



Ariadne's ship was docked in the harbor so the Lawgiver was anxious to visit his favorite seacaptain. He had not seen her in quite sometime and was always interested in hearing her tales of her latest exploration.

The young orangutan captain invited the wise leader to her dining table and he felt honored. She studied the ape elder and then hesitantly asked a question. "I navigate my ship by the stars. Sometimes I feel like I should be exploring the heavans. Do you think someday apes will explore the universe and learn her secrets?"

The Lawgiver was surprised by her question and thought a few moments before replying.

"We are a curious species and we cannot stop learning. Man used his knowledge for destruction but we must be different. If the universe shares her secrets with us, our path to the stars will be one of a great destiny for simians on this planet.

"We are a planet of apes and we will someday make our presence known to others out in the universe. But we must act wisely and go in peace."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number LXXIX

Caelus, the archaeologist supreme, came to see the Lawgiver once again with another of his discoveries.

"Lawgiver, this appears to be part of an ancient history text. Only this fragment remains. I was hoping you could make sense of what it says."

The Lawgiver took the artifact from Caelus and began to read.

> *And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.*
>
> *I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."*
>
> *I have a dream that one day ... the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.*
>
> *I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.*
>
> *I have a dream today!*
>
> *I have a dream that one day... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.*
>
> *I have a dream today!*
>
> *I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."*

"What do you make of it?" asked Caelus when the Lawgiver finished reading.

"Amazing", replied the Lawgiver, "I never imagined that there was such a wise human. Perhaps if more men had heeded these words, humans would not have destroyed their own civilization".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXX

It is written that the Lawgiver, when he was quite young, visited the far off village of Noat at Harvest, as he was wont to travel and try to enlighten his fellow apes. Here, in this far away village, nestled into an almost inaccessible valley, he met the gorilla ruler of Noat, Gratius, but he was not impressed.

Where the Lawgiver expected to find celebration, he found misery, because Gratius was a hard taskmaster. He enthralled his subjects. He worked them until they dropped, and he took tribute for himself. And he had soldiers to enforce his will.

The Lawgiver went to the center of the village square as the sun was setting, and the workers were coming in from their toil in Gratius' fields. He stacked two crates on each other and climbed to the top. Everyone stared at him, and as Gratius sat upon his throne to receive his daily tribute, the Lawgiver pointed a hairy finger at him, and said: "When rulers take grain so that they may feast, their subjects become hungry. When rulers take action to serve their own interests, their subjects become rebellious. When rulers break lives so that their own lives are enriched, their subjects no longer fear death."

The Lawgiver turned to the crowd, saying, "When apes act without regard for the moment, they overcome those who value only their own lives, and ensure themselves a future."

Although no ape was seriously hurt in the uprising, Gratius and his soldiers were ousted by the sunrise, never to return to the village of Noat.

So it is written.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number LXXXI

The Lawgiver was visiting the village of Quari near the border of the forbidden zone. Recently, the prefect had sent a platoon of gorillas into the zone to hunt down a tribe of wild humans that had been harassing the villagers. The platoon was never heard from again.
Two additional squads of gorillas had been sent into the forbidden zone but both barely made it back to the village alive.
The prefect was now planning on sending another platoon. However, the people of Quari had grown tired of all this and wanted no more gorillas sent into the zone. Even the village council and the commander of the military garrison objected sending more gorillas. But despite their opposition the prefect refused to change his mind.
At the behest of the council, The Lawgiver went to see the prefect and asked him why he was being so stubborn.
The prefect replied, "It would be a disaster to surrender to these wild humans. We must keep going until we are victorious".
"It is the foolish ape who repeats the same action again and again thinking the result will be different", The Lawgiver told the prefect, "It is the wise ape who realizes that acknowledging his mistakes is not a surrender and changes his tactics".

Lesson From The Lawgiver

Number LXXXII

Ape City was embroiled in controversy. A small group calling themselves the Gorillas Of Prophesy believed that the Earth was flat and were demanding that it be taught in all schools along side other theories.

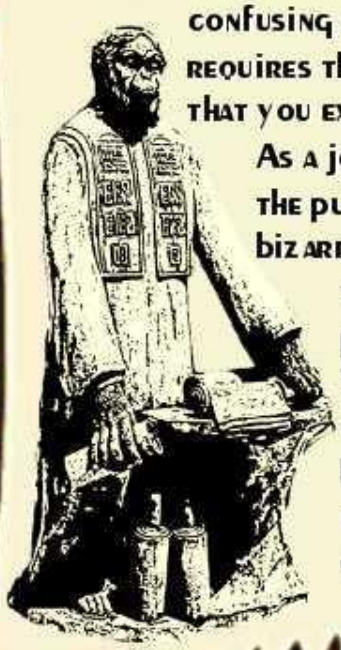
For centuries every learned Ape had accepted the fact that the earth was round and revolved around the sun. In the past a group like the Gorillas Of Prophesy would have been considered crackpots and ignored. But this time the local newspaper, the Ape, was treating their flat earth theory as if it had merit. It was due to the coverage by the Ape that the issue had become a controversy.

The Lawgiver went to visit the editor of the Ape, Mattaus, whom the Lawigiver had known since he was a baby.

"Mattaus", asked the lawgiver, "Why are you giving credibility to this crackpot theory that the earth is flat?"

"Lawgiver, I am a journalist and must remain objective. It is my professional duty to give each side fair consideration", he answered.

The Lawgiver looked at Mattaus and shook his head, "My boy you are confusing objectivity with neutrality. Being neutral requires that you don't take sides. But being objective means that you examine the facts without distortion or prejudice.



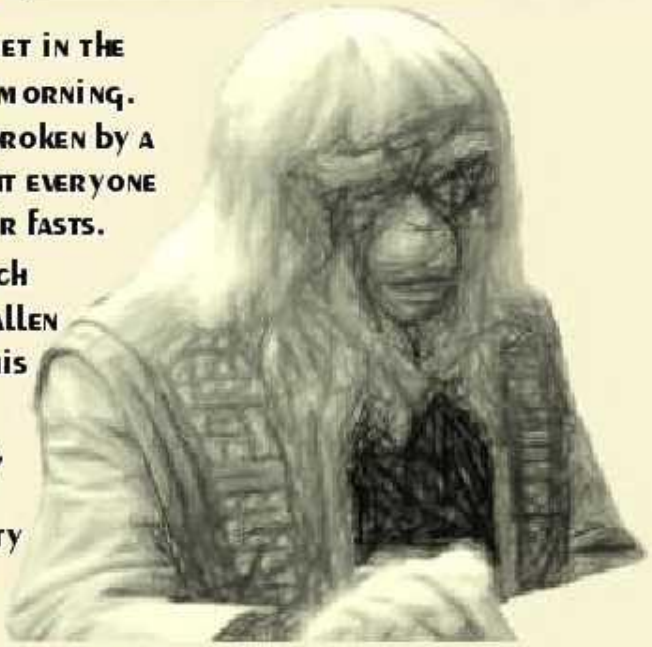
As a journalist your first duty is to present the truth to the public so they can be well informed. It is not to some bizarre concept of fairness which provides a platform to those who wish to distort the truth to fit their personal agenda or religious beliefs".

The next day the Ape ran a front page story detailing all the scientific evidence proving the Earth was round and that the flat Earth theory untrue; and thus the controversy was ended for good.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXXIII

Ape City was warm and quiet in the still of the pleasant spring morning. Suddenly, the silence was broken by a loud crashing. This brought everyone running from breaking their fasts.



Thesius had drank too much peach brandy again, and fallen down the short steps to his home, crashing into his neighbor's vegetable cart, overturning it.

The populace of the City shook their heads and walked away, leaving Thesius to lie in his self-made filth.

The Lawgiver, seeing all this, took pity on the drunken ape, and hauled him to his feet. He walked him, unsteadily, down to the river. There, he bathed Thesius' filthy body, the icy water bringing a sense of sobriety to the gorilla.

Sitting in the shade of a nearby tree, later, Thesius, nursing a headache, listened to the Lawgiver.

"Thesius," he began, "I know that Celina's leaving you broke your heart, but the wise ape knows that just as too much music deafens the ear and too much taste dulls the palate, too much drink maddens the mind."

"I know," Thesius answered, "but, the brandy dulls the pain. Oh, why would she leave me?"

The Lawgiver pondered his answer for a moment, then replied, "Now, we may not understand everything about females, but surely you have to agree that you understand less when you are drunk."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

By Dave Ballard/Art by Glen Scheetz

Number LXXXIVa

Part One

The future was uncertain, the path ahead unclear, and the Lawgiver felt despair, for he knew not where to lead his people.
But he knew wisdom, he knew himself, and he conceded that the answer lay within.
Perhaps then he searched too hard, perhaps any solution could not to be torn from the air, like a branch from a tree, but teased away, like a toy, from a jealous child.

*****

"Where are we going?" Asked the boy at his side, his six-year old legs, struggling to stay abreast of his Uncle's much greater stride.
'To the forest," The Lawgiver replied. "For I intend at long last to make good on my promise to teach you to paint."
His Nephew clapped his hands with joy, for now he knew at last what treasures were held in the box carried by his beloved Uncle. A renewed enthusiasm lent him greater speed and for the balance of the journey he would dance and skip, always a few paces ahead.
They reached a setting of great natural beauty, where trees stood lofty and green, swaying gently against a sapphire sky. Where the rays of an orange sun spread with great spectacle through a vast canopy of leaves, colouring the world in glorious dappled shades of scarlet and gold.
The Lawgiver set down two easels and beside them the means with which to paint. Then together, in this place of great inspiration they each strove to capture what they saw.

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

By Dave Ballard/Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXXIVb

PART TWO

Some time after it was time for each to witness what the other's hand had wrought. The boy looked over The Lawgiver's shoulder and marvelled, for the land had been faithfully captured. The trees, sky and grass, were each represented by a sure and skilled hand.

The young boy then held out his own effort proudly, but the Lawgiver's brow crinkled with perplexity.

"What is that large dash of Blue?" He asked of the child.

"The sea!" was the reply.

"And this great swathe of yellow?"

"Sand!"

The Lawgiver shook his head and said with some irritation. "I have brought you to a place of wonder and of great natural beauty and instead you have painted a beach!"

The child nodded his head with unease.

In silence, The Lawgiver paused to consider and then suddenly let out a great laugh, for suddenly the path ahead for he and his people was clear. Confronted by all before him his vision had faltered and was unable to discern what lay ahead. The unclouded eyes of a child had had shown him the way, revealed to him not what the eye might perceive... but what the heart should yearn after.

He laid his hand on his nephew's head and ruffled the boy's hair with great affection.

"I think it is a marvellous painting." He said, and the child beamed with pride. "And I think tomorrow we shall visit this beach."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXXV

There was the threat of trouble brewing in Ape City. Everyone knew it. The question all would eventually ask was, was this a challenge send from the Almighty?

General Baltus had decided he would separate his troops from the populace, and have them train, constantly, in case of attack. What he was training against, he was never quite satisfactorily able to explain. Consequently, all the male gorillas of service age were required to move south of Ape City and barracks together.

Sensing the potential trouble, the Lawgiver went to General Baltus, and tried to reason with him. But after a protracted conversation, there was no resolve. "Lawgiver," the general chided, "what is the great harm you perceive here?"

"General," the Lawgiver replied, "I always advise apes who are in a position of power to not advocate violence, for violence has a habit of returning to them." Laughing, General Baltus replied, "But I am a soldier, plain and simple. Violence is my trade."

"Policing is your trade," the Lawgiver corrected him. "Thorns and weeds grow wherever an army goes, and lean years follow a great war. A general is well advised to achieve nothing more than what is necessary; nor to glory, boast or pride in himself; to do what is dictated by necessity, not by choice."

"Nonsense," the general exclaimed.

"Not nonsense, my dear general," the Lawgiver corrected, "Sense. For even the strongest force will weaken with time, and then its violence will return, and destroy it."

As is well known, shortly thereafter, General Baltus died in an earthquake, while his troops were on maneuvers on the edge of the Forbidden Zone. Fortunately, no one else was seriously hurt. The question everyone asked was, was this a sign from the Almighty that the Lawgiver's words were right? He allowed each ape to decide this within his own heart.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

By Dave Ballard

Number LXXXVI

In the days before The Beast would fall from grace, and was thus still endowed with the blessing of speech, an Ape and Human walked a beach, side by side.

It was in the aftermath of a great Catastrophe. One wrought by Man's own hand and yet but the latest in a legacy most foul and wretched.

The feathers of many birds had been tainted by vile corruption and now they struggled upon the shore, blackened, crippled and soon to die.

The Ape reached down, picked up a bird and slowly and methodically began to cleanse its feathers.

The human laughed and said with great derision. "Surely, you cannot hope to cast all these birds back into the sky? They are going to die in their thousands. You waste your time. In the great scheme of things your futile effort will make no difference."

"But to this one, it *will* make a difference," said the ape. "And thus my effort is far from futile."

And having finished the cleansing he released the bird to the embrace of the sky whereupon it beat its wings and took flight.

"But they are destined to die," argued the human with scant regard to the distress that lay about them. "It is written."

"These too are God's creatures", said the ape as he began to cleanse another bird. "And through the wisdom of God, *nothing* is written... until we write it".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number LXXXVII

For many years Patricus was known to the populace of Ape City as 'Poor Patricus'. He was an ambitious Orangutan but none of his get rich quick schemes ever seemed to work out.

Recently, Patricus' luck had greatly changed and he became very rich. Particus was very free with his newfound wealth, going on shopping sprees in the marketplace, giving very generously to charity and buying a large house on the hill overlooking Ape City.

The source of Particus' largess had become the buzz among most simians. 'Had a rich relative died?' 'Did one of his schemes finally pay off?' There was much speculation about Patricus but not many answers.

One night Patricus invited the Lawgiver to dinner to show off his new house. "Patricus, my boy", said the Lawgiver as they dined, "You've done yourself proud but everyone in Ape City is wondering where all your money came from. I have no doubt that you came by it honestly"

"Lawgiver", answered Patricus, "I've so wanted to tell someone this story. Several months ago I became lost walking in the forest when a great rainstorm began. When the rain finally cleared there was a beautiful rainbow in the sky. For some reason, I was compelled to follow the rainbow. At the end of it I found a small human dressed all in green sleeping next to an enormous pot of gold. I caught the human using a small sack I had with me. When it awoke the human spoke in a strange accent. It said is was a lep-ri-can and that if I released it, I could keep the pot of gold. So let him go and true to his word the gold was mine."

"Ah Patricus, chucked the Lawgiver, "If you didn't wish to tell me the source of your wealth, you should just say so instead of spinning such a fanciful tale".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXXVIIIa

PART I

One bright, spring morning, a stranger, a chimpanzee, came riding up over the ridge that overlooked Ape City. All the inhabitants saw him, as he sat there gazing over them. Seemingly without a care, he casually rode down into the City on his strange-looking beast of burden. It looked like a horse, but it was smaller. It had a mane and tail like a horse, yet not as majestic. It had ears like a horse, but three times as long.

The chimpanzee rode to the market square and stopped. Standing up in the saddle, he called out in a strange accent, "My fellow apes! I have traveled hither and yon, and ridden hard. I wish to tarry here with you, that we may learn from one another. Pray tell, where may I find the leader of your fair city? I am known by my friends as Calixtus."

"And I," a voice behind him rang out, causing him to turn, "am known as the Lawgiver."

* * *

"Marvelous! Simply marvelous!" Xanthe was saying, as he jotted down some fascinating comments about Calixtus' adventures. He, the Lawgiver and Calixtus were seated around a table in the Lawgiver's study. Junias entered, carrying a tray of oper jam, coarse bread and a fresh pitcher of salmonberry juice. She set it down in the center of the table, and took her seat next to the Lawgiver.

"You say you have traveled all over this land?" Junias asked.

"Yes. I have seen all the wonders this country has to offer. For instance, there is another Great Ocean to the west, two months of steady riding ."

"The land is that vast?" Xanthe asked in an awed whisper.

"Tell us about more of your adventures," the Lawgiver encouraged.

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Protevs / Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXXVIIIb

PART II

"Well, let me see," Calixtus pondered, then, "I was in this one place, up in the high mountains, where the evergreens grow in profusion. There, I came across two wonders. The first, I came upon at a great distance. I saw it from afar over the treetops, and it took many a day to finally stand at the foot of it. It was the carving of a man, out of the living rock of the mountain. The illusion was that he was astride a massive horse. He used to point over its head, but his arm had broken off and crumbled to dust ages ago."

"I wonder who it was supposed to be," Xanthe questioned aloud.

Calixtus pulled his saddle bag onto the table, opening it, and extracting a sheaf of papers.

"On a stone plaque below it, were these letters," he said, pointing out a drawing he had made. "Of course, some were worn off. They looked like ....A-Z-Y H-O-R--E M-E-M-O-R-I-A--. The second word seems to be "Horse", and the last is "Memorial", I assume the first word is the name of this human's horse."

"That must have been a special horse." Xanthe observed.

"I would say so."

"How big was the carving?" the Lawgiver asked.

"I do not exaggerate, but I could fit in one of its eyes! Can you believe it?"

"Amazing!" Junias exclaimed.

"But, you spoke of two wonders. What was the second?" the Lawgiver asked.

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Protevs/Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXXVIIIc

PART III

"I'll tell you. Now, in the same mountain range mind you, I rounded a bluff, exiting a valley the very next afternoon, and suddenly before me was no less four human visages carved into the side of the mountain!"

"Four?" Xanthe asked, incredulously.

"Four," Calixtus confirmed.

"The heights man rose to, only to be dashed to pieces by their own stupidity," Junias commented under her breath.

"What's that you say?" Calixtus asked.

"Oh? That mankind was a stupid beast," Junias answered.

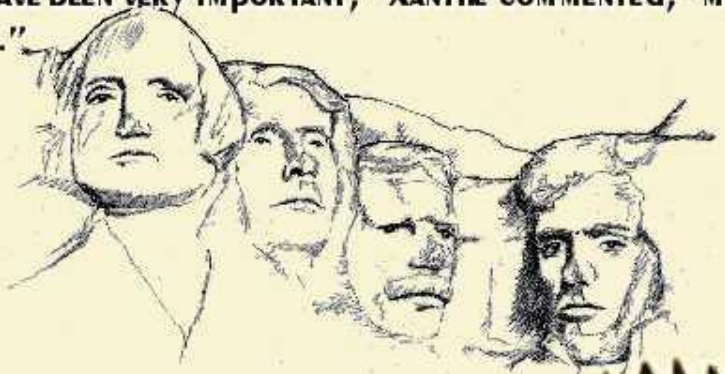
"A beast? Unequivocally. Stupid? I don't know. I have seen things that are beyond the ken of ape."

"Shall we say foolish, then," the Lawgiver smiled. "But, I wonder who these four were."

"Well," Calixtus began, as he shuffled through his sheaves of paper, "in front of the mountain, some distance away, were the ruins of a structure with twelve arches. In the facade of the arches was carved what looked like this," he showed them a drawing, "--O-U---TR-U-S-H---O-R-E N-A-T-----N-A-L M-E---O-R-I-----. I assumed, since there were four words and four faces, that the words were the names of the humans."

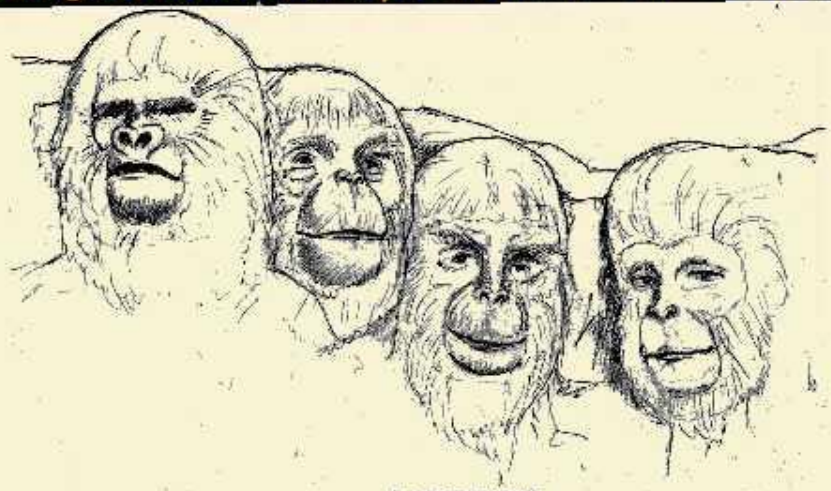
"That makes sense."

"They must have been very important," Xanthe commented, "maybe even some leaders."



LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Number LXXXVIIIb



PART IV

That night, the Lawgiver dreamed. He dreamed he was astride the carved horse, pointing up at the bluff overlooking Ape City. But, instead of the tree-covered bluff that normally looked down upon the city, there were four ape faces carved into the rock. At one end, there was a gorilla, all dressed out in his military finery. Next to him, there was an orangutan, his wizened face pondering and contemplative. On the far end, there was a chimpanzee, with his stone eyes all filled with wonder and curiosity. And the last face was that of the Lawgiver himself!

When he awoke in the morning, the dream was still fresh in the Lawgiver's mind. Being a spiritually-minded ape, the Lawgiver believed the dream had meaning, if he could only find out what. So thinking, he climbed up onto the bluff that looked down on his beloved city. But, though he sat there all day, he could not figure out what the dream meant.

As the afternoon came on, the Lawgiver decided to return to the coolness of his study. He had a meeting with the three farmers, and he was no closer to solving the problem of how to divide their land fairly than he was at understanding his dream. If only he had someone to turn to, like an associate, or something, he thought.

Then it hit him. He knew what to do.

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Protcus/Art by Glen Sheetz — Number LXXXVIIIe

PART V

The next morning, the Lawgiver called for a gathering in the city's amphitheater.

"I have good news, all you fine citizens of Ape City!" the Lawgiver began. "To help govern you more efficiently and with greater fairness, I have instituted the First Council." He motioned to three apes, one gorilla, one orangutan and one chimpanzee sitting with him in the amphitheater. "First, there is Torkus." The gorilla stood and nodded, amid a gentle applause from the gathered apes. "Then, there is Promejian." The orangutan stood and bowed, amid continuing applause. "And, there is Jinee." The chimpanzee came to his feet and bowed, and the applause died down. "These three, together with myself presiding, are your new Council. We will be available to better help you with the problems and troubles of Ape City."

* * *

That night, in the Lawgiver's study, he, Calixtus and Junias were seated around their evening meal. "I hope you will consider spending some time with us, Calixtus," the Lawgiver said.

"I hadn't given it much thought, why?"

"I am quite interested in your tales of adventure," the Lawgiver smiled.

"Oh, really?"

"Yes, they are the stuff that dreams are made of."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number LXXXIX

The Lawgiver was on a pilgrimage. Annually, on the anniversary of his parents' passing, he journeyed to the remote crag where his mother and father first met. This time he had brought along faithful Xanthe for companionship for the journey.

They traveled in silence for most of the day, and Xanthe did not question this, as he knew the Lawgiver was in deep contemplation of his parents, whom he never knew. He was just pleased to be chosen to accompany his friend, and he was enrapt by all that he saw along the way.

They camped in the very same shallow hollow at the top of the crag that the Lawgiver's mother and father had, all those long years ago. As Xanthe was stirring their supper of vegetable stew over the fire, the Lawgiver asked him if he had learned anything that day during their trek.

"Um, yes," Xanthe replied, quietly, feeling something profound was expected of him, but not really sure what.

After a moment, "And?" the Lawgiver asked him with a smile. He really wasn't expecting anything profound from Xanthe, he was just making conversation.

"And, it was remarkable to know that I didn't know it until I learned it," Xanthe answered.

"Indeed?" the Lawgiver remarked, seeking to suppress his smile.

After a bare few moments Xanthe began to realize how lame his reply had sounded, and so added, "I am sorry, my Master. I am afraid I have learned nothing. I am sorry, because I know I should be better, but, I was so entranced by the scenery, and honored to be with your august self, that I am afraid I was not open to learning anything."

Now the Lawgiver truly smiled, as he said, "No, my friend. You have learned something valuable. You have learned that honesty, no matter how unpleasant it might be, is a far more comfortable path to walk than dishonesty."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Number XC

Xanthe was walking in the cool of the evening, when he came across three young apes in a heated discussion. Being the considerate ape he was, Xanthe did his best to not eaves-drop on their conversation. Nonetheless, one of them said something that made him halt.

"It is not my custom to intrude," Xanthe offered, hesitantly, "but I could not help in overhearing you mention the Lawgiver. May I assist in something?"

"Perhaps," the eldest of the young apes replied. "We were discussing whether or not it was possible to live up to the example set by the Lawgiver."

Xanthe chuckled, "Ah, I see. You know, there was a time when I asked the Lawgiver that very question."

"And what was his reply?" the smallest of the three apes asked.

"Oh, it was sage, of course," Xanthe smiled, "'My words are easy to understand,' he said, 'and my actions are easy to perform. Yet no other can understand or perform them. My words have meaning; my actions have reason; yet these cannot be known and I cannot be known.'"

The eldest then commented, "Then, it is not possible."

Xanthe chuckled again, "The very conclusion I reached, until he said, 'We are each unique, and therefore valuable in our own right; although we are all very much the same, the wondrous Create made us individuals, with our own portion to offer.'"

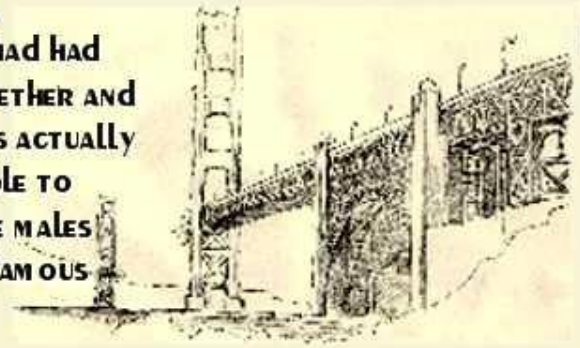
Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz

Number XCIa

Part I

It had been some time since Xanthe, Calixtus, Junias and the Lawgiver had had the opportunity to take a meal together and enjoy each other's company. It was actually Junias who was the one who was able to arrange it, finally, tempting all the males together with her promise of her famous beet and kidney bean pie dinner.



* * *

After the meal, while they were all relaxing, sipping from their cups of plum wine, the Lawgiver spoke up, "Xanthe, why don't you show Calixtus that ancient book you found? You know, the one with all the maps in it. He might have seen something like it in his travels."

So, Xanthe obediently trundled off, to return shortly with a small, worn volume. He handed it to Calixtus, who wasted no time carefully sifting through the brittle pages. In seeming no time, he let out an exclamation of delight.

"This," he said, setting the open book between them so that all could see it, "this bay is charmingly familiar. I was with a settlement on a distant peninsula along the Great Ocean to the west once, oh, many years ago, who had maps of their region that looked rudimentarily like this."

"Indeed?" the Lawgiver asked, his interest piquing.

Calixtus smiled, "Yes. There was this stupendously impressive bridge, there, that almost spanned from the tip of the peninsula to the farther shore. It was a rusty orange in color, and quite impassable. The center section was all but gone."

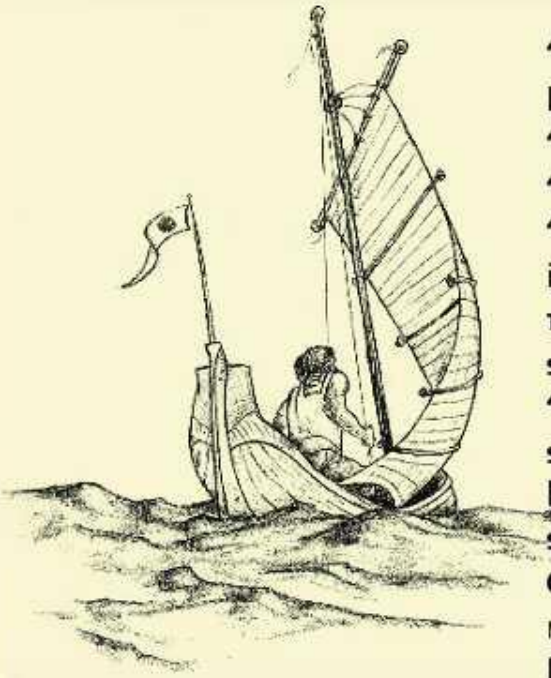
"And what happened there?" Xanthe asked, unbidden. Everyone chuckled. He always was as entranced as a child by Calixtus' tales.

"There, one bright morning, after a week of terrific onshore storms. We saw a sail far out on the horizon,"

he related, dramatically.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz — Number XCIb



Part II

"A sail? Out on the Great Ocean? How exciting," Junias exclaimed. "But where did it come from?"

"No one knew," Calixtus began.

"Perhaps this will give some insight?" the Lawgiver offered, turning the map pages carefully, and showing everyone what he found. "Look, this peninsula of which you speak, looks like this one here, only larger," he continued, pointing to a second map for comparison.

Calixtus looked closely at the two maps, flipping carefully back and forth in silence for a few moments. "Yes," he murmured, "yes, I see the resemblance. You have a good eye, Lawgiver. This could explain a great deal."

"I am particularly intrigued by these islands far across the Great Ocean," the Lawgiver commented, running his gnarled finger lightly down the page, across the illustration of a series of what were plainly islands in the midst of water.

"Another land," Xanthe whispered, "across a Great Ocean. What mysteries lay there in that strange land."

"We may never know," Calixtus replied.

"But, why not?" Junias asked. "What of the apes that live there?"

"If they are anything like the poor sailor, they are all quite mad," Calixtus answered.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz — Number XCIe

Part III

"Mad?" the Lawgiver asked. "Are you saying the sailor was mad?"

"Oh, yes," Calixtus replied, nodding, "quite mad."

"Was he dangerous?" Xanthe asked, shuddering.

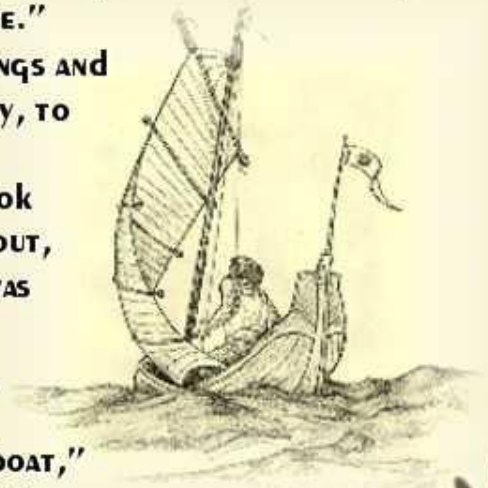
"No, not at all," was Calixtus' ready reply, "but he could not speak a word of intelligible language. He kept babbling on in a sing-song ramble. No, he was quite mad."

"Perhaps he merely spoke a different language than ours," the Lawgiver offered.

"Yes," Junias added.

"A different language," Calixtus thought out loud. After a moment he sprang to his feet. "Excuse me a moment, would you. I want to fetch my drawings."

"Of course, of course," the Lawgiver replied, waving him on. Within a few minutes, Calixtus returned with his sheaf of papers. Slapping one small bundle on the table-top, he spread out several parchments for everyone to see. As they each picked up a sheet or two, Calixtus said, "These are some of the scribblings he made. I kept them out of habit, for they made no sense to me, nor anyone else."



On the papers were neat little scratchings and cross-hatching lines in what was plainly, to the Lawgiver, script.

"This ape was obviously intelligent. Look here, and here," the Lawgiver pointed out, "these symbols repeat identically. He was trying to communicate."

"What happened to him?" Junias asked, timidly.

"He was gone one morning, as was his boat," Calixtus replied softly. "It was assumed he sailed back where he came from."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Number XCIV

Part IV

The following morning, while the Lawgiver was taking his dawn constitutional, he was deep in thought. Who was the strange sailor? Where was he really from? Was there a land, far to the west, across the Great Ocean, where there were brother apes engaged in their separate, but similar, lives as here? Would anyone ever know for sure?

Xanthe approached the Lawgiver, quietly, not wanting to intrude upon his morning meditations.

"Yes, my friend?" the Lawgiver asked, smiling.

"Last night was quite –" and here he faltered.

"Enlightening?" the Lawgiver finished for him. "I do not know."

"Why?" Xanthe asked. "It is knowledge, this new land. Good knowledge."

"All knowledge is good. Only the use to which you put it can make it evil," the Lawgiver answered. "The question is, what will future generations do with such knowledge?"

"What do you mean?"

Seeming not to hear him, the Lawgiver continued. "Should knowledge be hidden?" he questioned, "In short, should knowledge stand still for the safety of the future?"

The Lawgiver walked away from Xanthe, continuing his walk in silence.

Lesson From The Lawgiver

Number XCIII

The Lawgiver was visited by the Minister of Science, who arrived with an ancient scroll and a very worried look on his face.

"Lawgiver", he said, "This scroll was found in a hidden vault during renovations at the ministry. It was written by Virgil".

The Lawgiver took the 600-year-old scroll and read it. Virgil told the story of his and Caesar the Great's trip to the Forbidden City in the eastern desert and of the truth of earth's fate they discovered.

"Who else has read this scroll?", asked the Lawgiver.

"Only me Lawgiver", he answered, "the human who found it can't read".

"From this day forward the eastern desert will forever be designated a Forbidden Zone. No ape shall ever travel there again", ordered the Lawgiver, "You will assume the position of Chief Defender of the Faith. Your mission will be to keep the contents of this scroll secret and to do everything possible to prevent this terrible future from coming to pass. This sacred duty will be passed from you to your son and his son and to all your descendants in the house of Zaius".

Lesson From the Lawgiver

By Elaine N. Robinson/Art by Glen Scheetz Number XCIV

Festival Day

It had been many years since Caesar had revolted against the humans and a new simian world was born. The apes celebrated every year on Festival Day, it was a day that reminded them of their freedom from brutal captors. The apes celebrated with a big festival that included food, speeches and games. The Lawgiver always attended the big event.

During this particular festival, he was approached by a young, chimp female who had a question to ask him. "At one time, this day of freedom had meaning for us. Now it is just an excuse to overeat, take a day off from work and drink like a fish. Aren't we no better that our human captors?"

The Lawgiver was taken aback by her statements and question. He pondered for a moment then replied. "You are correct. We should always remember why we celebrate this day but there is no harm in having fun. As Simians who have been released from oppressors, we deserve to drink a little and enjoy different kinds of food. Always remember to enjoy life in addition to taking things seriously."

The young chimp listened intently to the Lawgiver then joined him in eating a banana pie.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Art by Glen Scheetz

Number XCV

Every summer the Lawgiver would travel to the small towns and villages in the provinces surrounding Ape City. One town was the human farming village of Trid. Usually the people of Trid greeting the Lawgiver enthusiastically, but this year the whole village was deeply depressed.
At dinner the Lawgiver asked the village elders what was the problem.

"Lawgiver", answered the chief elder, "for decades we have freely used a bridge across the river to move our goods. Although the bridge was legally on land owned by an Orangutan, he never objected to us using it. Recently, the old Orangutan sold his property to a Gorilla.

Now he has demanded each of us pay a toll or he kicks us off the bridge. We are a poor people and cannot afford his toll or the cost of building another bridge off his land. Can you help us Lawgiver?"

"This Gorilla seems to have no concept of simian charity", responded the Lawgiver, "Tomorrow I will go to the bridge and speak to him to secure free passage for all your villagers".

The next morning the Lawgiver awoke early and journeyed to the bridge. The Gorilla was standing proudly on the other side. The Lawgiver crossed the bridge.

When he reached the other side, he defiantly said to the Gorilla, "I refuse to pay any toll to cross this bridge and claim that right for myself and the people of Trid. So you have a choice, let me pass or try to kick me off".

The Gorilla shook his head and looked the Lawgiver in the eye and said, "Silly Lawgiver, kicks are for Trids!"

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XCVI

The village of Codis was in an uproar when the Lawgiver arrived for his yearly visit. The commander of the local Gorilla garrison, Berto, had repeatedly lied to the citizen's council about his activities.

When the council demanded that the prefect remove the commander from his post, the prefect refused.

Now that the Lawgiver was present in the village, the council appealed to him. They showed the Lawgiver the evidence they gathered proving Berto had lied to the council. They also showed him evidence that Berto had abused his power by spying on law-abiding Apes and holding humans indefinitely without charges. Many suspected he took these actions on the orders of the prefect. But that could not be proven.

"Simply put", asked the Lawgiver, "Why do you want me to remove Berto?"

"Because he abused his power and violated the law", answered the head of the council's delegation.

"We cannot respect the rule of law by violating it", stated the Lawgiver, "I have no legal standing to remove the commander of a Gorilla garrison. That can only be done by the commanding general of the army in ape city or by the local prefect".

"But the prefect is corrupt and in league with Berto", declared one of the council members.

"That may be true", said the Lawgiver, "But until that can be proven he cannot be removed, even by me".

The council members became disheartened. They had hoped appealing to the Lawgiver would solve their problems.

"Do not be saddened my friends", proclaimed the Lawgiver, "The prefect's term is up in less than 18 months. I assure you I will not reappoint him. And as is the custom, the new prefect will appoint a new commander of the garrison. Do not worry. You will be rid of these vipers soon enough. For those who abuse their power will never be trusted with power again!"

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XCVIIa

Many in Ape City were becoming concerned about the Lawgiver. Although he was elderly, he always been of good health and humor. But recently things had changed. He had become forgetful, coming late to meetings and not remembering what was the topic of discussion. He had also had bouts of ill temper. Even once yelling at a little girl in the marketplace for a minor infraction.

The situation became so bad many were convinced the Lawgiver must be ill and dying.

At a secret meeting of citizen's council it was decided that Dr. Valerius, the Minster of health, give the Lawgiver a full medical examination to determine the cause of the problem.

Dr. Valerius knew that the Lawgiver was too stubborn to agree to an exam in his office, so instead he invited the Lawgiver to his home for dinner. After several glasses of wine, the good Doctor broached the subject, "Many are becoming concerned for your health old friend".

"I'm old that's all", responded the Lawgiver.

"Well many fear that you are dying", said Valerius, "You're not the ape you use to be".

"We are all dying. From the moment we are born we begin dying."

"Very true. But for some of us it takes a little longer than others"

"What is your point Valerius?"

"Why not let me examine you so we can put everyone's mind at ease."

"Never", declared the Lawgiver, "There is nothing wrong with me but old age".

"Didn't you once say it was the foolish ape who did not take care of himself", retorted Valerius.

"I never said that", the Lawgiver said to the Doctor, both knowing he was lying.

Finally after much discussion, the Lawgiver agreed to the medical exam.

To be continued...

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XCVIIb

The citizen's council eagerly awaited Dr. Valerius' report on his medical examination of the Lawgiver. Many were convinced the news would be dire and the Lawgiver was dying. Others hoped that it was a simple medical problem with a simple solution.

The council room became silent as Dr. Valerius entered. He walked to the center of the room and began to speak.

"My friends. Last night I completed the task you assigned me and gave our beloved Lawgiver a full and complete medical exam. I come to you today to report on the results of that examination.

"I'm happy to report that there is more good news than bad. For an Ape of his age, the Lawgiver is in remarkably good health. His heart is strong and he remains extremely vigorous..."

"What is the bad news?" interrupted one of the council members.

"The bad news is that the Lawgiver is suffering from nervous exhaustion and we have only ourselves to blame. For years we all have burdened the Lawgiver with all our petty problems and disputes, relying on him to solve them for us. Unfortunately the stress of this great responsibility has finally taken its toll on the Lawgiver."

"What can we do to help him?" asked another council member.

"There is only one thing that can be done", responded Valarius, "The Lawgiver must leave us for a time. I have recommended to him, and he has agreed, to take a long sabbatical in the south away from the pressures of Ape city".

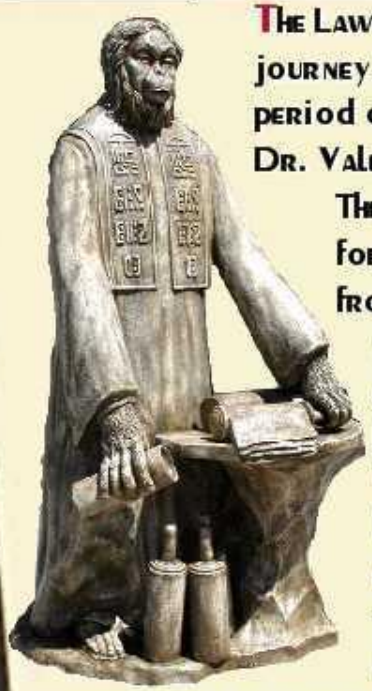
"But how are we to get along without his wisdom and guidance?" asked the acting president of the council.

"I do not know", answered Valerius, "But we must learn to do so quickly. The Lawgiver leaves us one week from today".

To be continued...

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XCVIIc



The Lawgiver rose before dawn to prepare for his journey. He was leaving Ape City for a much-needed period of rest. He was saddened at having to leave but Dr. Valerius insisted it was necessary.

There was a part of him that was looking forward to a long sabbatical in the south away from all the pressures of Ape City. He planned to catch up on his reading as well as finish writing a set of scrolls that he hoped would guide his fellow Apes long after his death.

When he finished gathering his belongings, he left his small house for the short walk to the dock. The boat taking him south was scheduled to at dawn.

It was then the Lawgiver received the biggest surprise of his long life. All of Ape City had come out to see him off. Apes and humans all stood together, lining the road from his house to the dock. As the Lawgiver began to walk to the dock cheers rang out from the crowd, "We love you Lawgiver" and "please come back to us soon". Many held flowers and tossed them in his path.

By the time the lawgiver reached the dock he was overcome with emotion. The captain had to help him onto the boat. He then turned to the crowd and with tears welling up in his eyes he said, "Thank you my friends. You are too kind to this old Ape".

Again many in the crowd yelled, "We love you Lawgiver".

"I love you all too", he said with his voice cracking, "and I promise you that I will return one day. Until then please go forward in all your beliefs and prove to me that I am not mistaken in mine".

With that the boat sailed off and the citizens of Ape City waved goodbye to their beloved Lawgiver.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XCVIII

The Lawgiver was enjoying his sabbatical. He was an honored guest of a Chimpanzee merchant whose estate was on the coast just outside Southern City.

The merchant's son, who was a bright young ape, came to see the Lawgiver one day with what he said was exciting news.

"Lawgiver as you know I wish to study archeology at the academy in Ape City", he said, "To prepare I've been surveying the grounds around my father's estate and have made a miraculous discovery".

"What have you found?" asked the Lawgiver,

"I can't describe it. I have to show you", he answered.

The young chimp took the Lawgiver to the entrance of a small cave. The two just barely fit through. Once inside the Lawgiver noted it was the strangest cave he had ever seen. The walls, floor and ceiling were all flat and smooth.

Carrying a torch the merchant's son led the way deeper into the cave until they reached a door. On the door there was writing that was barely legible but the Lawgiver thought it said 'Mission Control: ANSA Project". They went through the door and entered another chamber filled with large metal cabinets along the walls and what looked like desks in the center of the room.

"I discovered this chamber and these cabinets several months ago, but four days ago that one came alive", said the young chimpanzee pointing to one of the metal cabinets with small blinking lights on it.

The Lawgiver approached the cabinet and noticed that on its front there was a piece of glass. On this glass the words 'Recording incoming transmission' flashed. As the Lawgiver studied the strange metal cabinet the words on the glass changed. They now read 'Transmission received: Playback mode initiated. Correcting for time dilation effect'.

Suddenly a voice came from the cabinet. The Lawgiver and his companion listened as it said, "And that completes my final report until we reach touchdown..."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Number XCIX

The Lawgiver was disturbed by the events of the day. First, the disembodied voice that came from the cabinet in that strange cave speaking about the sins of man. A warning the Lawgiver took very seriously.

On the way back the merchant's son took the Lawgiver to one of the sheds where his father stored his wares. This shed contained many of the airtight locked boxes the merchant used for shipping. In one corner he had set up a small workshop that was filled with odd metallic objects.

"Here is where I examine the artifacts I have discovered", the young chimp told the Lawgiver. "These artifacts I found in another chamber even deeper in the cave. I wondered what they were but now believe they must be parts for a flying machine that was built by man".

This was too much for the Lawgiver to take. He ordered the chimpanzee to pack all the metal objects and lock them in the boxes.

While he did this the Lawgiver composed a letter:

'To the Chief Defender of the Faith in Ape City,

For generations your family has guarded the secret of Vigil's Prophesies. Now I give you another task. If the contents of these boxes are ever found, you are to destroy them. Do not ask why. Just follow my instructions and you will have done the greatest of services for Simiankind.'

The Lawgiver signed the letter and sealed the scroll with wax. Then he helped the merchant's son pack all of the strange objects in the boxes. When they were finished the Lawgiver gave the young ape an instruction, "I want you to bury these boxes somewhere they will never be found. Bury this letter with them".

"But Lawgiver...", the chimpanzee tried to object.

"Do this task for me young Quinctius and you will be rewarded, for you and your descendants will always have a place at the Academy in Ape City to study archeology, proper archeology, discovering the history of Apes.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Vol. II No. 1

The Lawgiver, still on sabbatical, was looking forward to the celebrations for the 230th anniversary of the founding of Southern city. A few days before the anniversary Oberus, the orangutan prefect, came to see the Lawgiver with a grim look on his face.

"What troubles you my friend?" asked the Lawgiver.

"I have always had good relations with the humans in our city", answered Olberus, "I've treated them as equals. But now a human has come along who is disturbing the peace of our community. He is stirring up both the humans and simians with his tales. I'm considering canceling the anniversary celebrations unless things calm down".

Who is this human who is causing this trouble?"

"His name is Orly. He says he is from Ape City. Do you know him?"

The Lawgiver did indeed know him. Several years earlier, Orly had almost caused a civil war in Ape City. A wise old ape, Proteus, and his son Frankus exposed Orly as a fraud and ran him out of Ape City. Now the human was causing trouble here in Southern City.

"Olberus", the lawgiver advised, "Invite Orly to speak during the celebrations but don't tell him that I will be attending and we will put an end to the Orly factor once and for all".

Olberus left and did as Lawgiver instructed and invited Orly to speak.

On the big day, the whole population of Southern City, ape and human, gathered in the amphitheater to hear Orly's speech.

The human entered with several of his followers and began reading from a scroll. In the middle of his speech the Lawgiver entered the arena. Orly became so flustered at the sight of the elderly ape that he stopped speaking and dropped the scroll. Several of his followers scampered forward to retrieve it but as they all grabbed it some pages were ripped. Orly became enraged at this. He threw the scroll at one of his followers hitting him in the face, breaking his nose and screamed, "THIS SUCKS! I'LL DO IT LIVE! I'LL DO IT LIVE!". The whole the crowd fell silent upon Orly's outburst. Orly froze too realizing he had gone too far and ran from the amphitheater. Olberus then got up and spoke to the crowd, "From his disgraceful conduct today it is clear that Orly is the WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD!"

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. II

A four hour's ride north of west of Southern City was the village of Yehu. There had been small farms in the area for quite some time before, but it really hadn't become a village until a mere ten years ago. The deciding factor for bringing Yehu together as a community was the mutual planting of an extensive vegetable garden in its midst, that everyone could participate in and partake of.

Now, on this tenth anniversary of the establishment of Yehu, a grand feast was planned. And the Village Council was unanimous in voting that the Lawgiver be asked to give the opening speech at Yehu's tenth anniversary feast. Although he was on sabbatical, the Lawgiver felt he could make the trip.

"What makes a group of apes a community?" the Lawgiver began, "Mutual respect and cooperation. Now, as is well known, Yehu was initiated by Daveed, a wise orangutan, and Jacomus, an industrious chimpanzee," he motioned to the two prominent apes in the front of the assemblage, "whom everyone knows so well.

"They were the initiators, it is true, but, it took more than just the two of them to make this a true community of apes. Where would this village be without the aid and assistance of each and every one of you, here today?

"Indeed, even though this village has had its troubles, mostly from without, but also from within, it has continued to stand strong, pulling together and growing." The Lawgiver stopped here and smiled, looking out over the expectant faces. "In fact, Yehu has grown so prosperous as to rival my own home of Ape City in efficiency."

The Lawgiver raised his stone goblet of fruit-wine, and toasted, "May the respect continue, may the cooperation continue, may the prosperity continue; long life to the apes of Yehu, long life and another ten years of greatness. Let the feasting begin."

With that, the assembled raised their goblets as one, and everyone drank deep.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Vol. II No. III

It was a very rainy day when the Chief Defender of the Faith came to visit the Lawgiver. He seemed as upset as he was wet.

"What troubles you my friend?", asked the Lawgiver.

"Over a year ago I came to you with a scroll found in a hidden vault in the Ministry of Science (see Lesson XCIII). Per your order I have kept guarded the secret of that scroll with my life", answered the Orangutan. "A heavy duty but one you have carried well."

"Thank you, Lawgiver. But more of these scrolls have been found at the Ministry. Like the other scroll, these new scrolls were written by Virgil. They document the first 75 years of Ape City's history. But I am not sure what to do with these new scrolls. None contain as dire a revelation as revealed in the first and they do offer much valuable insight to our history. So do I keep them secret to guard the secret of the first scroll or do I release them to the masses? You see my dilemma Lawgiver."

"I do my friend. Leave these scrolls with me. Come back in three days and I will give you my judgment on the matter", ordered the Lawgiver.

Three days later when the Orangutan returned as commanded, the Lawgiver had grouped the scrolls into several piles.

"The first group", stated the Lawgiver, "are those I have deemed acceptable to be released to the masses verbatim. The second group you must re-write in order to fit into current doctrine. The third group you will keep as secret as the first scroll that you found. The fourth and final group is not here. I found them totally objectionalbe so I have destroyed them. It will be the duty of you and your descendants in the house of Zaius to periodically review these scrolls and decide if any of them should be moved to a different group."

The Orangutan nodded his assent. The Lawgiver then took a scroll from the first group, promising to return it later, and walked down to the stream where some school children had gathered. He opened the scroll and began to read, "*In the beginning God created beast and man...*"

Lesson from the Lawgiver

Vol. II No. IV

The Lawgiver was in the second year of his sabbatical and considering returning to Ape City when the Chimpanzee Prefect of Southern City came to see him in a most distressed state.

"Lawgiver", he said, "I'm sorry to bother you with such a trivial matter but the peace & harmony of Southern City is at stake".

"What is the problem Baracus?" asked the Lawgiver.

"Last week a Gorilla, Sergeant Crolius, was on patrol when he saw a human climbing into the window of a small house. The Sergeant immediately kicked down the door and arrested the human. But as it turned out the human was Setag, a respected member of the council. It was his house and the only climbed through the window because the door was stuck. Of course, the charges were dropped immediately but Setag is demanding that Crolius apologize and pay to fix the door. Crolius refused, saying that he was just doing his job. I further inflamed the matter when I said Crolius had acted 'stupidly' when asked about the incident. Now the whole city is divided. Gorillas & Orangutans on one side supporting Crolius and humans & Chimpanzees on the other side supporting Setag. Lawgiver, what I should do to diffuse this situation?"

"Relax my friend", said the Lawgiver, "Send Crolius and Setag to here at dusk and I'll help resolve their differences".

Later that day the Gorilla and the human arrived at the Lawgiver's house. The Lawgiver told them both to sit down then placed a cup before each which he filled with wine. Most of the citizens gathered outside of the Lawgiver's house wondering what was going on inside. After three hours Crolius and Setag emerged from the house, arms around each other and singing a song. they got about 30 feet from the door and collapsed. the crowd rush forward to discover both were drunk and had passed out. the next day when the prefect asked the Lawgiver what had happened, he replied, "There is not a dispute in this world that can't be resolved by massive amounts of alcohol!" So sayth the wisest Ape of all.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. V

My name is not really important. Suffice it to say, my fellow apes have called me the Lawgiver for so long that their children, and their children's children, consider that to be my name. I value their sentiments. And from my high hill of old age I have seen many things that one should value.

It occurred one morning to Xanthe, my loyal scribe, that I was in danger of making an irreparable mistake, from neglect. Of course, he didn't put it that way, no. My dear Xanthe doesn't have a presumptuous bone in his body. No, I put it in the guise of folly, because he was right – if he had not pointed out my oversight (his words), apekind would have suffered a great loss – perhaps an irretrievable one, at that.

And, it was such a simple thing, too, that I feel more so the fool for not having realized it myself, and thus, much to his chagrin, I metaphorically bowed to Xanthe's greater wisdom.

What occurred to him was simply this – I needed to write down, or have written down, in a series of categorized scrolls, all the knowledge and wisdom to be had for the edification of all future apekind, and so I did, beginning with this confession, as the first chapter of the first Sacred Scroll. And who better to chronicle it all, but my loyal scribe Xanthe, the most consummate writer in our midst.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. VI

The Lawgiver was addressing the subject of excesses for his most astute students one morning, when a Gorilla soldier, standing nearby with several others, interrupted.

"Pardon my boldness, Lawgiver," he began, "but, just how can someone define excess? After all, each ape requires differing amounts of differing things. Those in the greatest need," and here he swelled his chest out, "require the greatest portion."

The Lawgiver, knowing this particular soldier was trying to trap him in his answer before his peers, smiled a little before answering.

"If you fill a cup to its brim," the Lawgiver replied calmly, "is it not easily spilt? Similarly, if you temper your sword to its hardest, is it not easily fractured? Likewise, if you amass the greatest treasure, does it not tempt the weak, and thus is it not easily stolen? If you claim the credit and honor grandiloquently before all, you receive your reward in full and you easily fall."

The Gorilla soldier was speechless, of course.

"Rather, withdraw quietly once your purpose is achieved – and the Almighty will truly complete your abundance."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. VII

The Lawgiver and his young, orangutan apprentice, Thesius, were walking together in the cool, afternoon breeze that blew briskly through the fruit orchard.

"Master," Thesius began, "how can the wise ape truly find harmony?"

"*Find* harmony?"

"Well, live in harmony," he corrected, "To find harmony to live by?"

"Oh, I see." The continued on in silence a few moments.

"Nature teaches us harmony," the Lawgiver began, raising his arms and spreading his hands apart, taking in the countryside. "Nature speaks only a few words. The high wind does not last long, nor does the heavy rain. If nature's words do not carry on, overburdening, why should those of the learned ape?"

Thesius nodded, contemplatively, "So the wise ape achieves harmony just by right speech?"

"Oh, so much more," the Lawgiver added, smiling, "but, that is a good start, because correct speech stems from correct thoughts and emotions.

"You see, nature teaches us that the wise ape seeks harmony, and becomes harmonious. The foolish Ape who gives in to loss, becomes lost. For the learned ape who accepts harmony, the Almighty harmonizes with him; and the ignorant ape who accepts loss, the Almighty cannot find."

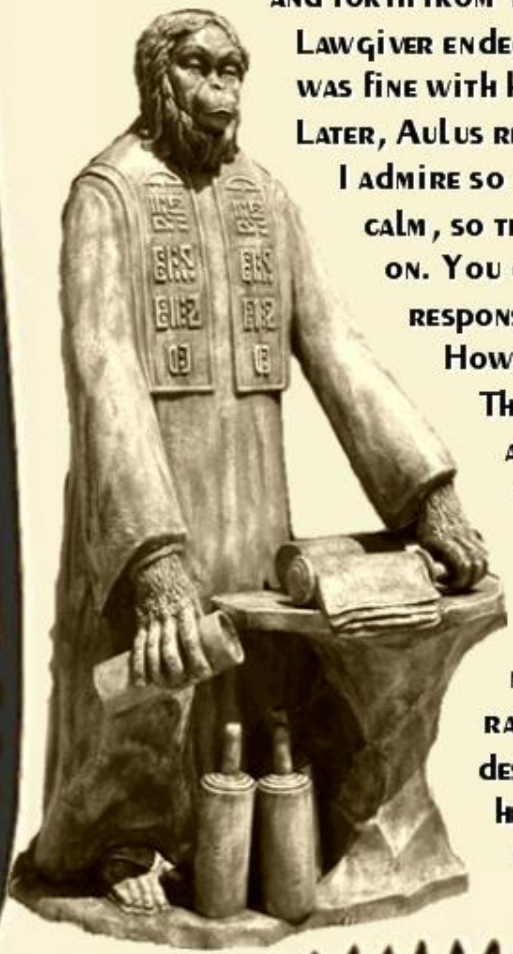
Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. VIII

The Lawgiver was visiting Noat during Planting-Season. The prefect, Aulus, was an industrious chimpanzee who the Lawgiver had appointed to govern Noat, after he had helped the populace oust General Gratius, quite a few years back.

It was midday, and Aulus had been attempting to impress the Lawgiver with the excellent winter-stock of dried produce Noat could provide, by setting a sumptuous feast, but he kept getting interrupted by messengers for one thing or another. He was the type who needed to see to business first-hand, rather than delegate. With Aulus running back and forth from the meal to the many errands, the Lawgiver ended-up eating pretty much alone, which was fine with him.



Later, Aulus remarked, "You know, one of the things I admire so much about you, is you always seem so calm, so tranquil, no matter what chaos is going on. You obviously have much more responsibility than I, yet you are unruffled. However do you do it?"

The Lawgiver sighed, then chuckled, answering, "The wise ape does not always take overt action, yet he leaves nothing undone. When he accepts this proverb, his world flourishes in harmony with the Almighty's creation. Watch the movements of creation. The wind, the rain, the animals do not possess desperation; and without desperation, the heart becomes quiet. In this manner your whole world can be made tranquil."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. IX

Galu, the chimpanzee, was a favorite of everyone in Ape City. He was kind and generously giving, intelligent and unfailingly cheerful. Everybody loved him. So, when it became known that he had had a fatal accident, the entire city was plunged into mourning.

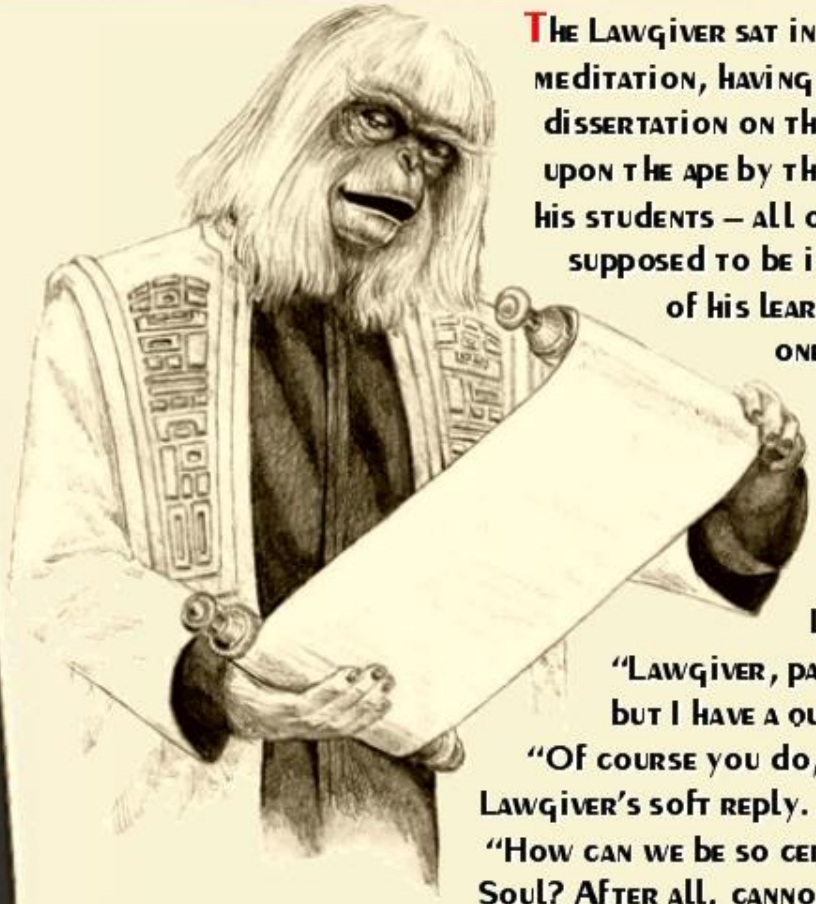
The amphitheater was filled to capacity, as the Minister stepped forward, to deliver little Galu's eulogy:

"Empty the self of sorrow, and embrace heavenly peace. The sun will always rise and move across the sky; thus we can watch it return to its rest with assuredness. This teaches us that the humble of creation will eventually return to the Almighty, in heaven. This return is peaceful; it is the natural flow, an eternal sleeping and reawakening. Accepting this brings contentment, ignoring this brings sorrow.

"Who accepts this natural flow becomes contented. Being contented he becomes unbiased. Being unbiased he becomes magnanimous. Being magnanimous he becomes spiritual. Being spiritual he becomes one with the spirit of God. Being one with the spirit of God he becomes immortal. Though his body will decay, his spirit will live on. Thus we who knew him, know little Galu lives again, in heaven, and we will all see him, in our due time."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus / Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. X



The Lawgiver sat in quiet meditation, having just finished a dissertation on the Soul bestowed upon the ape by the Almighty, for his students – all of whom were supposed to be in contemplation of his learned words. But one, Vibius, was young and brash and full of questions – always. He broke in on the Lawgiver's quietude.

"Lawgiver, pardon my intrusion, but I have a question."

"Of course you do," was the Lawgiver's soft reply.

"How can we be so certain that man has no Soul? After all, cannot man be termed the hairless ape, so similar are we?"

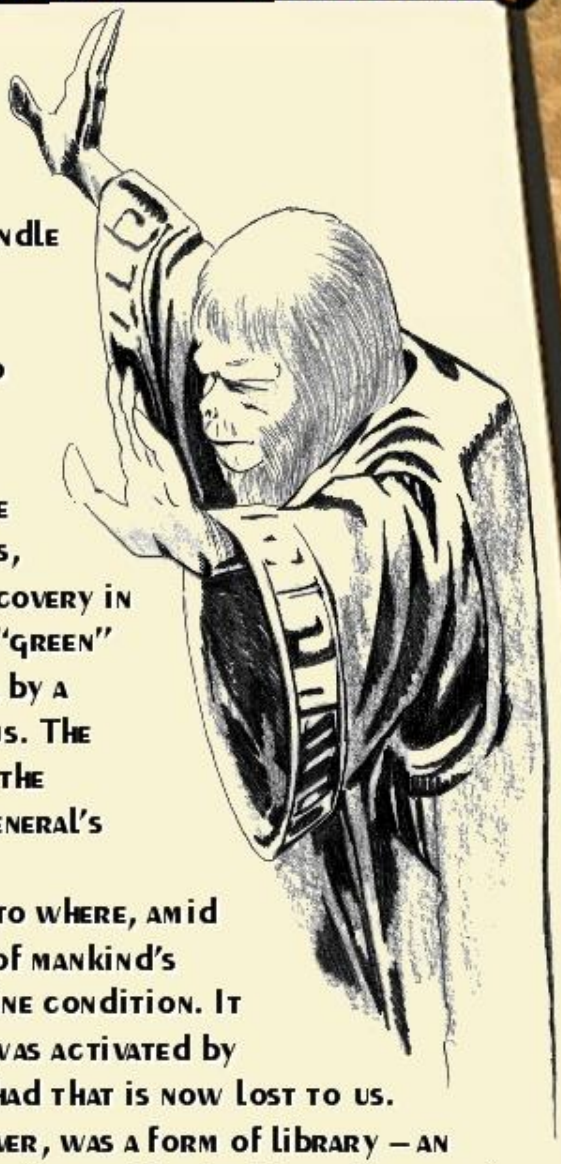
"There is more to the ape than the mere appearance.

"The ape is like the river, unburdened, forever flowing. Contrariwise, the man is as dry as the Forbidden Zone, constrained. That is because the apes' Soul's beginnings are the beginning of our link to the Almighty, limitless. Whereas, the man who has no Soul, has no link to the Almighty, forever desiccating. The Spirit of the Almighty moves within the Soul. Drawing upon it; it will never run dry.

"Sit in contemplation over that," the Lawgiver concluded.

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz — Vol. II No. XIa



Shortly after the Lawgiver instituted the Ape City Council, Councilmember Promejian determined that it would be more efficient if the Council had a Board of Ministers to handle specific situations. Being a fellow orangutan, he nominated me to the appointment of Minister of History, to which I was unanimously elected. Honored, I naturally accepted.

One of the first assignments I had came about through Councilmember Torkus, when he notified me of a fantastic discovery in one of the safe ruins, (not one of the "green" cities, poisoned by mans' scorching), by a scouting party under General Drusus. The ruins were a good two day ride to the northwest, so I set out with the General's party immediately.

There, General Drusus showed me to where, amid the decay and ruin, there was one of mankind's ancient machines in virtually pristine condition. It was one of the rare machines that was activated by "solarbattery", a knowledge man had that is now lost to us. This machine, I was quick to discover, was a form of library – an historical library, recorded on small, metallic-looking plates, under the heading: 'Archive on the collapse of Human Society and the rise of the Simian Culture – 2482.08.02'. I began to transcribe the plates, excerpts of which follow.

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XIb

Plate -- A-34577

"...I feel moved to begin this Archive on a personal note. It is probably too late to save the human race from enslavement or extinction. You who are hearing this chronicle are surely of the new breed who has inherited the earth in our stead. May God help us."

* * *

"We cannot place the blame anywhere else, but squarely upon our own shoulders. History must show that we brought the downfall of human society crashing down upon ourselves.

"The undermining of our global supremacy began, ironically, within a branch of science separate from virology or genetics. It began in astrophysics. It seems that a disease, a mysterious, alien virus, was brought back by one or more of the astronauts from outer space. The viral pathogen attacked all canine and feline species. It was like a plague. No existing vaccine or antidote was of any help, nor could one be developed.

"The plague didn't affect humans. They were immune. And so, it was discovered, were simians, even the smallest ones.

"That's how we began our own demise..."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XIc

Plate -- A-14976-0

"...The plague that fell upon dogs and cats throughout the world, killing hundreds and thousands of them within a few months, did not stop there. It seemed that the virus was hardier than could possibly have been imagined. It survived the death of the host to infect others.

"Consequently, further hundreds and thousands of dogs and cats had to be destroyed to prevent the spread of the infection.

"This branched out beyond domestics, as well. Every zoo, circus and menagerie terminated their entire stock of canines and felines. This even extended to organized hunting parties throughout the wilderness places, as well.

"It was finally decided that complete and total immolation was the only cure. Thus, in every town, in multiple locations throughout every city, wherever there existed a fire station, there were set-up canine and feline crematoriums. Yet that was not enough. It became commonplace to find dog bonfires on street-corners throughout most rural districts..."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XIV

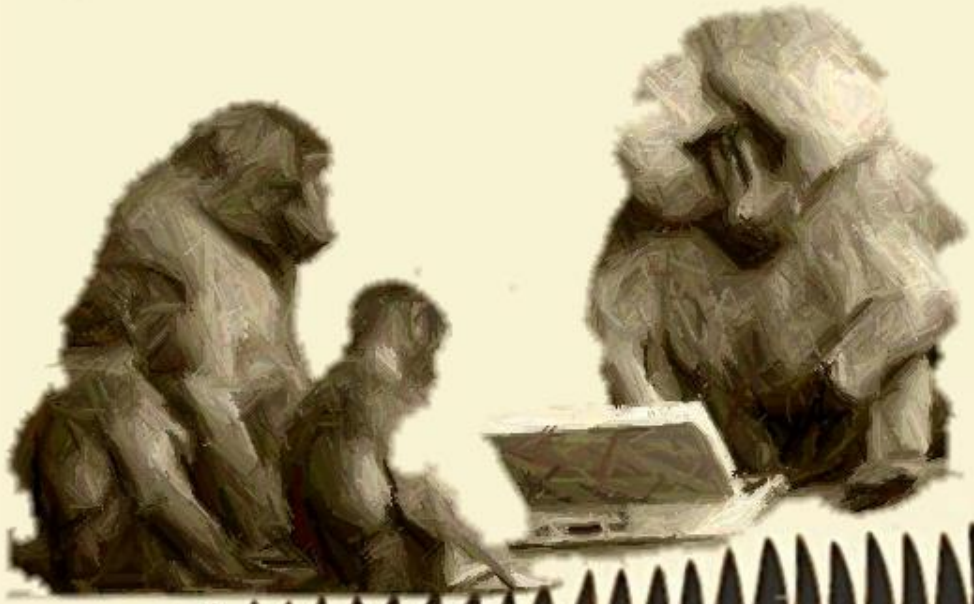
Plate -- B-64139

"..By the time that the announced containment of the plague was broadcast, man was entirely without pets. Of course, for humankind, this was an intolerable situation. Man might rationalize the necessity of the killing of his brother, his father, his son in war, but he could not come to terms with the deliberate killing of his beloved dog.

"So, within months of the time the plague was contained, humans, wanting little household pets to replace the ones they had had to destroy, began to take marmosets, capuchins, macaques, tarsier monkeys, and the like, into their homes.

"However, it didn't take long for people to begin to realize just how quick simiankind was to learn, how easy their new pets were to train. The natural next step, then, was for the pets taken into homes to become larger and larger. Within the span of only eight months time, humans were taking in primitive chimpanzees, orangutans, even gorillas as pets.

"This was the real first step to the downfall of human culture..."



LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XIe

Plate -- B-13598-4

"...The primitive apes were quartered in cages, but they lived and moved freely in their human masters' houses. Being exposed to humans for the greater part of the day, they became responsive to human speech.

"In the course of only two centuries the apes progressed from performing mere amusing tricks to performing necessary services.

"It was found that they could be taught simple chores, like cleaning the house and doing yard work. These novel duties eventually became more complex and encompassed jobs like cooking and doing the shopping for groceries, or whatever, with a list from its master.

"Then, man became docile, lazy, apathetic.

"Eventually the duties that were assigned to the apes were any labor-involved ones. Their jobs became even more complex, to where they were our barbers, our bartenders, our tailors. They delivered our mail, they washed our automobiles, they waited on our tables.

"And, after only three more centuries, the apes learned how to turn the tables on us, their masters..."

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XIf

Plate -- C-21632

"...The apes had become alert to the concept of slavery, and as we bred them for profit and their numbers grew, to slavery's antidote, which is unity. They began to assemble in small bands. They learned the art of corporate and militant action. They learned to refuse.

"At first they only grumbled their refusal.

"And then there was broadcast a first, on the news, an ape execution. It seems that one day there was an ape called Aldo, who didn't grumble. He articulated. He spoke a word that had been spoken freely to him by humans, but he was forbidden to speak back. He said 'No'.

"The Aldo Execution, as it was called, set off the sleeping time-bomb that lay nestled within our cities. We were weak, the apes were strong. The end was inevitable..."

* * *

I chronicled every last one of the records, which took me through the rainy season, until I had every piece of historical information the plates had to offer. I have brought it all back to the Lawgiver to peruse, and he has put these History Scrolls into the capable hands of his faithful scribe, Xanthe. How much of this information will be passed on to the populace, I don't know. That is a decision for more competent apes than I to decide upon.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XIIa

Part I

Within a few months of the Council's appointing of the Ministerial Officers, Xanthe, as Scribe, and I, as Minister of History, consulting together, both felt that we needed a further exclusivity for dealing with religious and philosophical matters. After much deliberation, the Council eventually decided that there should be an office for the Chief Defender of the Faith. Xeno, an Orangutan of great wisdom and sagacity, was unanimously appointed to this position.

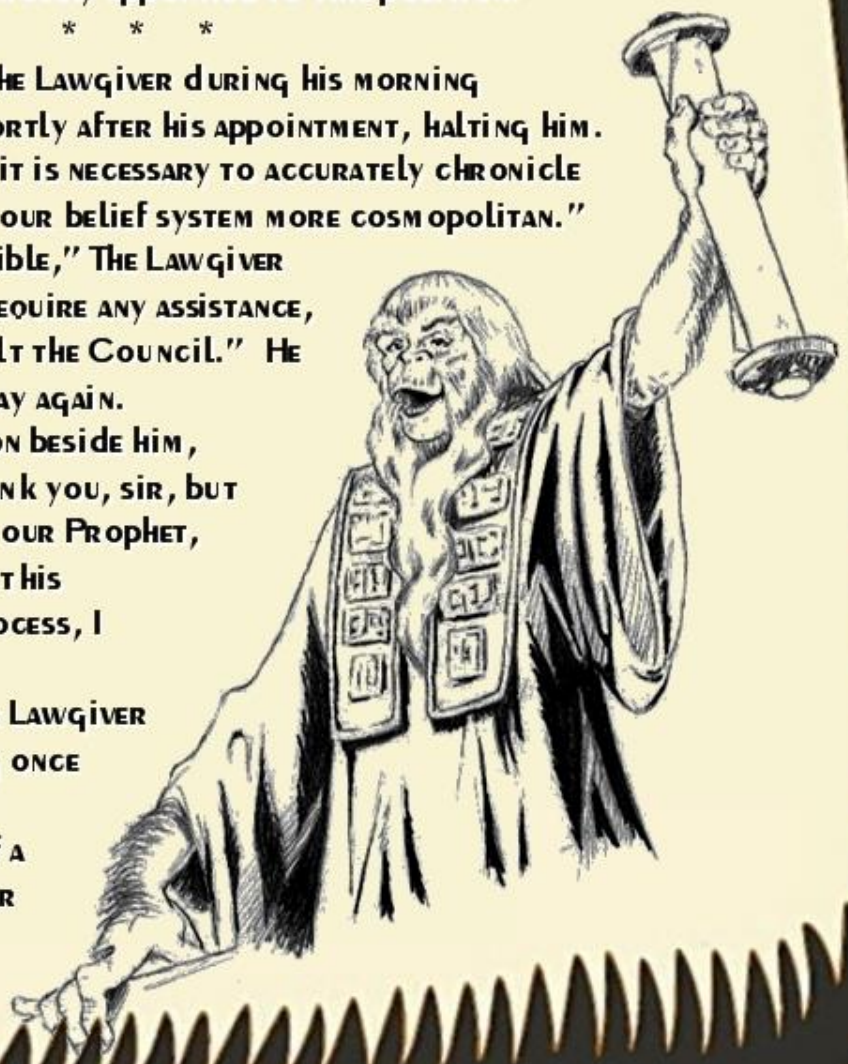
* * *

Xeno approached the Lawgiver during his morning constitutional, shortly after his appointment, halting him. "Sir, I believe that it is necessary to accurately chronicle our Faith to make our belief system more cosmopolitan."

"That sounds sensible," The Lawgiver nodded. "If you require any assistance, feel free to consult the Council." He started on his way again.

Xeno, pressing on beside him, continued, "Thank you, sir, but you see, you, as our Prophet, should be in on this chronicling process, I believe."

"Prophet?" the Lawgiver asked, stopping once more. "I don't consider myself a prophet, my dear fellow."



Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XIIb

Part II

"Far be it for me to correct you, sir, but did you not ask for the Almighty's assistance in locating this beautiful river vale?"

"Well, technically yes, but..." the Lawgiver stammered.

"And was that not so you could bring together all three families of apes, in accord, in one society?"

"Well, yes, however..." the Lawgiver stuttered.

"And did you not state that you believed that you were the Chosen of the Almighty to govern all apes from this place, living together as one family?"

"I told Xanthe that passage would come back to haunt me," the Lawgiver muttered.

"A Prophet is 'one who speaks for the Almighty, under Divine Inspiration', as you have. That makes you our Prophet," Xeno concluded, contentedly.

* * *

As every learned ape knows, the Lawgiver had no argument that could refute Xeno's logic. And thus, it was chronicled throughout the pages of the Sacred Scrolls that the Lawgiver was the Prophet of the Almighty, for the benefit of all Apekind.

Though he couldn't refute it, still, the Lawgiver could never feel entirely comfortable with the appellation.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs Vol. II No. XIII

The Lawgiver sat himself in the amphitheater with his brightest pupils around him, in the warm spring morning. They had been discussing something among themselves, previously, so they asked him, once seated, "Teacher, what is the measure of perfection?"

He thought a moment, then, "Consider, the perfect traveler leaves no trail to be followed; the perfect speaker leaves no question to be answered."

"Oh, the perfect scribe leaves no working to be completed;" Xanthe offered.

"The perfect container leaves no lock to be closed," Torkus added.

"The perfect knot leaves no end to be unraveled," Jinee concluded.

The Lawgiver chuckled, "Yes, you see it. -- So, the Teacher nurtures all apes, and forgets no one. He accepts everything, and overlooks nothing. Thus, he attends to the smallest of details. So the strong must guide the weak..." the Lawgiver trailed off, inviting a response.

"For the weak are raw material to the strong," Torkus offered.

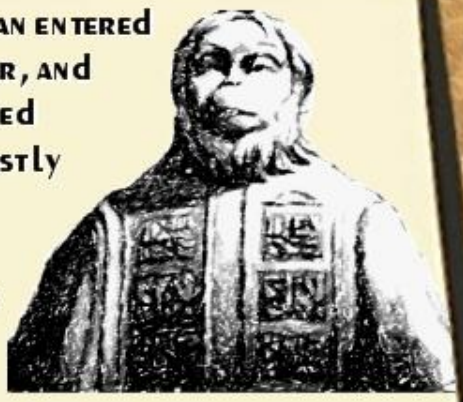
"Close enough," the Lawgiver chuckled. "If the Teacher is not respected, or his tools not cared for, confusion will result, no matter how clever he is.

"Consequently, this is the measure of perfection: When raw wood is carved and shaped, it becomes a tool. When an ape is engaged, he becomes carved and shaped just the same, and thus becomes a tool. The measure of perfection is when no tools are left unattended."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs

Vol. II No. XIV



It is written that one day a stranger Orangutan entered Ape City, headed straight for the amphitheater, and began expounding upon his supposed illuminated wisdom with a loud voice. A few listened, mostly the younger who knew no better, but, even though he spoke of seemingly deep things, most realized he was only full of himself, not true wisdom.

And when he offered his services as Wise Councilor for Ape City, he was soundly told by all that the Lawgiver was all the council they needed. Well, straight away he wanted to meet with him, so one of the youths was sent off to get him.

Upon the Lawgiver's arrival, the stranger ape looked him up one side and down the other, exclaiming, "You don't appear to be much. I challenge you to a Debate of Wisdom, the winner of said will be the City's councilor."

The Lawgiver looked slightly astonished, but replied, "Oh, I see. Well, by all means, proceed." The Orangutan looked at him a moment, "You first."

Embarrassed, the stranger cleared his throat, and turning to the growing crowd, he said, "Great perfection seems incomplete, but does not decay. Great abundance seems empty, but does not fail. Great truth seems contradictory. Great cleverness seems stupid. Great eloquence seems awkward." He then turned to the Lawgiver and nodded. "Refute that."

The Lawgiver had stood through all of this with a contented smirk on his face. He nodded his head and said, "As spring overcomes the cold, and autumn overcomes the heat, so calm and quiet overcome the foolish." And he walked away.

So it is written.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protews/Art by Glen Scheetz — Vol. II No. XV

General Drusus, it was well known, loved the Hunt. He loved the excitement of the chase, the thrill of the capture, the adulation in his prowess; he loved everything about the Hunt. He had no reservations with his belief that the Hunt was of Divine origins, designed to keep the vermin, Man, from overrunning Creation. However, he had no such assurances with the subject of war.

The General voiced his quandary, as he sat with the Lawgiver one evening, and asked him his beliefs on the Almighty's views on war.

"Oh, I believe the Almighty shares your perspective," he replied quickly, with a smile. "You see, a leader makes no greater mistake than pursuing a greedy desire. He brings no greater disaster than when he forsakes the security of his charges. He nurtures no greater illness than the seeking of another's property. The leader who is content to defend and support his charges finds that his contentment endures."

"I believe I see that," he acknowledged, hesitantly. "That's rather deep for a simple soldier like me."

"Then consider it this way," the Lawgiver chuckled. "It is plainly seen that when a society follows the peaceful path of the Almighty, horses pull plows through its fields. When a society ignores the peaceful path of the Almighty, horses pull biers through its streets."

General Drusus nodded, smilingly. "That, I can understand."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XVI

General Drusus sat with the Lawgiver, watching the stars come out, one by one. Junias had prepared a delicious peach soufflé and oper wine for the two of them, and had retired inside to leave the two Leaders of Ape City to their talking.

"I realize that my predecessor, Amar, commanded with a heavy hand. I believe that was the wrong approach. He will be remembered, but for the wrong things," General Drusus began.

"Indeed," was the Lawgiver's noncommittal reply.

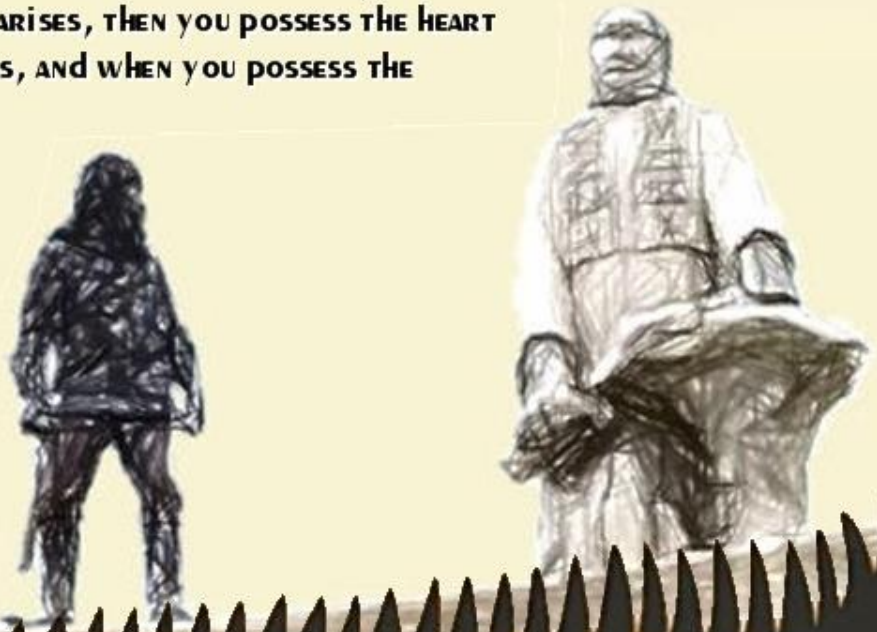
"Yes, but too much leniency breeds discord and apathy. What do you suggest?"

The Lawgiver sat silently, sipping his wine a moment, then, "Command an army as you would cook a delicate fruit soufflé."

General Drusus chuckled. "Can you elaborate, please?"

"Certainly," the Lawgiver smiled. "To command soldiers in accord with the Almighty's wisdom, it is best to be restrained. Restraint makes agreement easy to attain, and easy agreement builds harmonious relationships. With sufficient harmony no resistance will arise. When no resistance arises, then you possess the heart of the soldiers, and when you possess the soldiers' heart, your influence will long endure:"

General Drusus nodded, "I see. Yes, I can do that."



Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XVII

Doctor Gaius, head professor of Ape City's Academy of Science and Philosophy, asked the Lawgiver to give the First Graduation Class' Commencement Address.

Accepting, the Lawgiver gave a truly inspiring speech. He talked of dedication to truth and the community; and the furthering of knowledge beyond their schooling.

In his closing remarks, however, he struck a chord that was destined to resonate for many generations of apes to come:

"O apes, I speak, not to you of today, but to you of tomorrow. Today, you sit here with your peers, surrounded by your elders. Tomorrow, you and your peers will be those elders.

"To be wise elders, you must remember that the ignorant ape says to himself, 'I am important; I am above all else in the world. I am important because I am beyond all else. Were I not above, I could never be important.' Yet there are three treasures that I cherish and commend to you apes today:

"The first is compassion, by which one finds true courage. The second is restraint, by which one finds true strength. And the third is unimportance, by which one finds true influence. Those who are fearless, but without compassion for others, powerful, but without restraint in their passions, or influential, yet important in their own eyes, cannot progress.

"The wise elder remembers this."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XVIIIa

Part I

General Drusus and Calixtus joined the Lawgiver after his morning constitutional, as was becoming usual. In the midst of their breakfast conversation, their attention was drawn to a hawk, circling lazily in the sky overhead.

"I have often thought that Apes should be able to fly as birds do. Why would the Almighty create such an expansive sky only to be looked at?" General Drusus mused.

Calixtus spoke-up, saying, "I had a friend, a Chimpanzee scientist named Amphion, an Ape well beyond his time, who thought that same way, and had tried to fly."

"Indeed?" General Drusus replied, all interested.

"Yes," Calixtus continued, "Amphion believed that there was no limit to the Ape, aside from his imagination. He believed that God would not make the great expanse if Apekind were not to conquer it."

"And what happened?" the Lawgiver asked him.

"Amphion was heading an extensive archeological dig, in a city of the Ancients southwest of here," Calixtus began...

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XVIIIb

Part II

"Within the city, the team found the intact ruins of a sort of warehouse," Calixtus narrated, "buried, preserved. And inside of it there were machines, partially assembled – except for one. That one machine seemed whole. It had a roughly cylindrical main body, over twenty feet long. It sat on two front wheels, under an enclosed seating area, with a third, smaller wheel, at the extreme back. However, the really confusing portion, at first, was a pair of almost flat, rectangular, structures protruding out both sides of the seating area, with a combined length of thirty feet.

"Well, Amphion was a diligent scientist. So, he studied the machine and the parts for weeks, utilizing the deteriorated book found in the seating area, the predominance of which was written in the lost tongue of the Ancients, complete with illustrations, trying to determine what the machine's purpose had been. Quite soon, he discovered that it was some sort of vehicle. He was a master of mimicry, and had the kind of memory that never forgot the tiniest, most inconsequential thing. He carefully, methodically, took what was obviously the vehicle's control center apart. He laboriously cleaned each part, oiling it to preserve the metals...

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XVIIIc

Part III

"Amphion slowly learned how portions of the vehicle worked. He found many replacement parts stored in such a way as to retard, if not negate, decay. He replaced much of the vehicle's parts from this vast stock. Now, here is where he showed real genius – according to the information he could glean from the book, a flammable liquid was stored in the vehicle's control machine. Well, you know how we refine our lamp oil? Amphion took our lamp oil and refined it five times more than normal. When he was through, it had the consistency of water, but smelled like the very devil. It was extremely flammable. He found the reservoir that seemed to be made for storage of the flammable oil, and kept it filled.

"Well, Amphion spent more and more time with the vehicle, even to sleeping in the warehouse. He had begun a regimen of pushing levers and switches in various sequences in the control center, remembering exactly which ones he pressed. He hit a certain sequence finally, and the vehicle's control machine came to life, sputtering and coughing, to die again. He switched everything off. Then he switched it all back on again, in the same sequence. The control machine sputtered and coughed, dying again. He tried once more, twice, and three times. It finally stayed strong. By adjusting levers, the power steadied. The vehicle lived, but he was still at a loss as to what it was for...

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XVIIIb

Part IV

"In the front of the control machine protruded a cylindrical shaft with a vaguely rectangular feature that was canted at opposing angles. When the machine came to life, the rectangular structure spun with the revolutions of some of the control center's dials. Imperceptibly, but not so little that Amphion didn't notice it immediately, the vehicle 'pulled' forward, straining against the wheel restraints, every time the machine was given more power. It didn't take but a moment for him to take a leap in imagination to realize that here was a new mode of transport, a gift from some long deceased Ancient. Now, Amphion knew what the thirty foot rectangles were for. It was so plain. They were for carrying freight on.

"Amphion had discovered, through trial and error, what all of the levers in the control center worked, long ago, even though he didn't understand why everything did what it did. The large rectangles had smaller rectangles the hinged up and down, and the upright in the extreme rear was bisected by a rectangle that hinged back and forth. Now, he had his assistants remove the wheel restraints. Immediately, the vehicle leaped forward at tremendous speed. It raced down the hard-packed ground like a rifle-shot...

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XVIIIe

Part V

"Amphion told me he had a hold of the large stick that dominated the levers in the control center, moving it back and forth, left and right. He noticed immediately that the large, upright rectangle hinged back and forth when he did so, as he knew it would, and the vehicle would turn towards the opposite direction. Here was steering!

"Amphion then pulled a set of levers back, and the horizontal rectangles along the largest rectangles hinged upwards. Suddenly, the vehicle's nose lifted! Amphion's gut reaction was to cut the power, which he did, and the vehicle coasted to a quiet, if bumpy stop.

"I knew Amphion determined he would try it again, without delay. He had the vehicle, which by now terrified most of his assistants, towed back to the warehouse. He checked over everything, the rest of the day, making sure all parts were lubricated, and all fluids were full.

"I think he knew what was going to happen. It's just a feeling I have, but, be that as it may, Amphion was ready the next dawn to try again...

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Protevs/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XVIIIf

Part VI

"I assume Amphion repeated his moves of the day before, for he started the machine, brought it up to speed, and had the wheels freed immediately. He shot straight across the flats, without wavering or turning, this time. He moved so fast; faster than any contemporary ape ever has. Suddenly, he must have pulled the levers, for the horizontal rectangles hinged up, and the nose lifted. Instantly, and I swear by the Lawgiver this is true, the vehicle left the ground completely.

"I don't know what kept it in the air, but it stayed up, apparently effortlessly. Amphion maneuvered the vehicle out and back, up and down, and all around, always within sight of the warehouse, until one time, when the vehicle climbed straight up into the clear sky, and it dwindled to a mere speck. Some minutes later, the speck grew and grew as the vehicle descended again. But I knew something was not right. The vehicle's machine made a distinctive sound when it was engaged. The vehicle was descending too fast, and silently.

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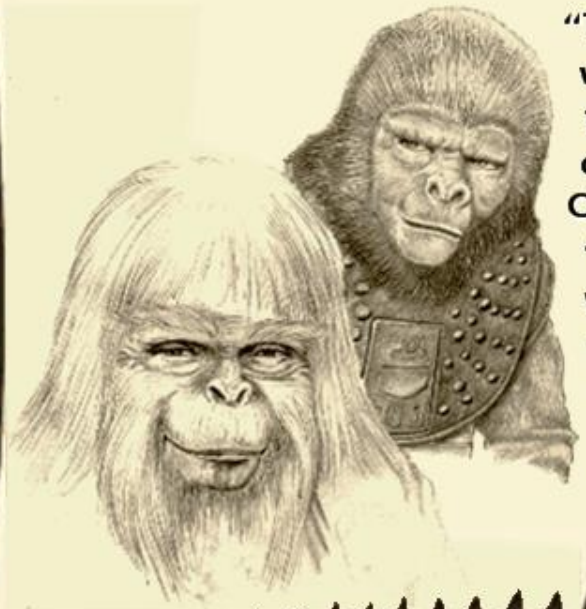


"There was not much left of the vehicle, once the flames had burnt themselves out," Calixtus concluded.

General Drusus commented, "Perhaps there are things Apes were not meant to do. It may be that the Almighty created such an expanse only to be enjoyed from afar."

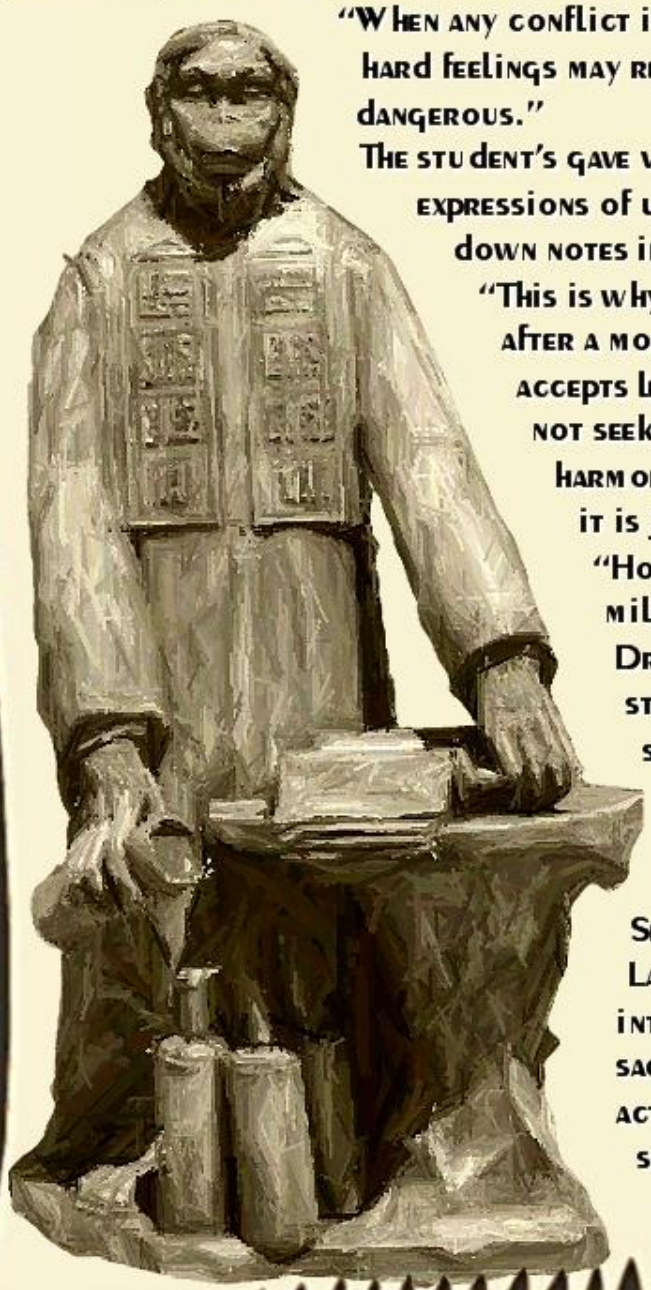
"I wonder," the Lawgiver replied.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XIX

The Lawgiver's students sat with rapt attention, in the sun-drenched amphitheater, as he concluded his lesson for the day with them, saying, "When any conflict is finally reconciled, some hard feelings may remain. This is can be dangerous."



The student's gave various nods and other expressions of understanding, some jotting down notes in their scrolls.

"This is why," the Lawgiver continued after a moment, "the wise teacher accepts less than is his due, and does not seek to blame or to punish, for harmony seeks out agreement, where it is justice that seeks payment."

"How can you explain that to the military-minded," General Drusus cut in, climbing up the stepped entrance. "Many of my soldiers sight the intensity of God's creation as justification for conquest."

Smiling and nodding, the Lawgiver replied, "It is all in the interpretation. The Ancients sages taught us that nature is actually impartial. Therefore it serves best those who serve all."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

Art by Glen Scheetz & Dave Ballard

Vol. II No. XX

Every ten years Ape City celebrated the anniversary of its founding by Caesar the Great centuries earlier. With the next ten year decanal mark fast approaching, many felt that the celebration was an old tradition which should be abandoned.

The problem was that the anniversary celebration a decade earlier had been a complete disaster. It was organized by an ape named Burtous who had no sense of history or of what made previous celebrations successful. The citizens of Ape City were very embarrassed by this and didn't wish for a repeat of the debacle.

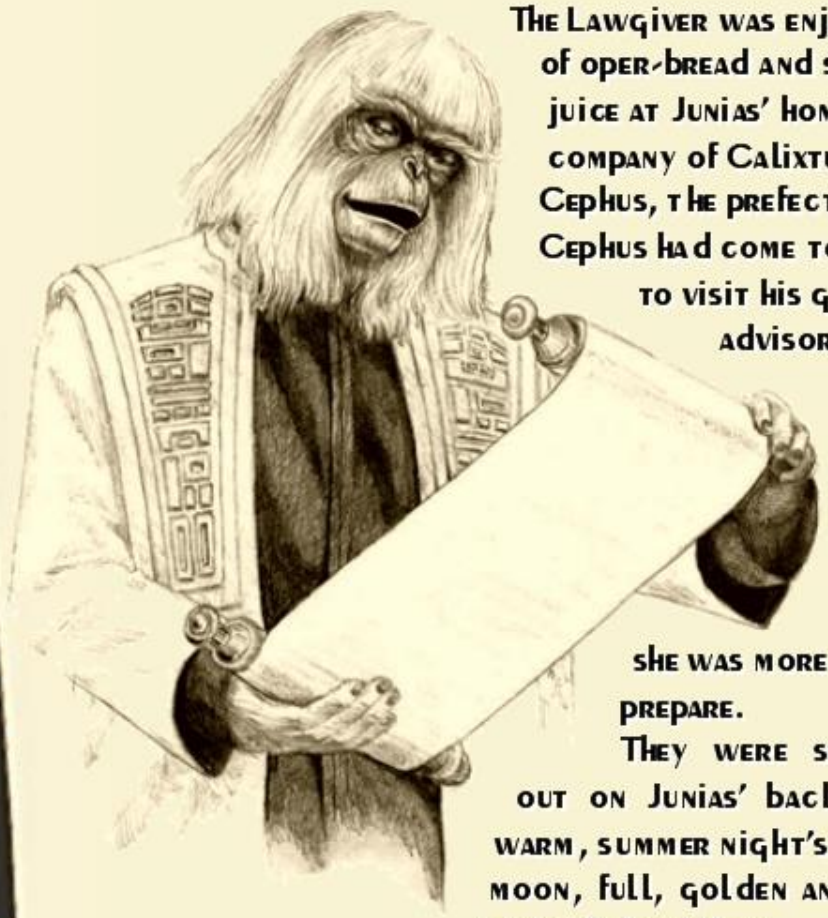
A special session of the Citizen's Council was held to debate and decide the question. By the end of hours of discussion it seemed that most were for canceling the celebration. It was then that the Lawgiver rose and spoke to the assembly. He eloquently spoke of the six anniversaries he had attended during his lifetime. While he confessed that the first was the best and his favorite, that all six, while varying in quality, had their merits and a seventh would too. He reminded them that the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the city was to honor all those who had built Simian civilization and that it would be an act of disrespect to forget them now just to avoid another embarrassment. By the time he was finished speaking every Ape in the amphitheater had been converted and they voted unanimously to hold the celebration.

The Lawgiver nominated Francus to organize the event. Despite being a young Ape, Francus was able to rise to the challenge. He used the latest in Simian technology in the celebration to make it a complete success that was remembered as the best anniversary of Ape City in over forty years.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXIa

Part I



The Lawgiver was enjoying a piece of oper-bread and salmonberry juice at Junias' home, in the company of Calixtus, Xanthe, and Cephus, the prefect from Kaul. Cephus had come to Central City to visit his good friend and advisor, the Lawgiver, and Junias felt it would be nice if the four friends had a special evening meal together, which she was more than willing to prepare.

They were seated comfortably out on Junias' back patio, under the warm, summer night's star-flung sky. The moon, full, golden and bright, was just rising before them.

"MM," Junias sighed, "I just love the moonrise. It's so --"

"Comforting," the Lawgiver smiled, interposing.

"Yes, comforting," Junias repeated, smiling back. They lapsed into a pleasant silence at that.

"I have been developing a theory about where the moon came from," Cephus commented, breaking the silence, "and how it got in the sky.

"Yes," Junias smiled, "the Almighty placed it there."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXIb

Part II

"Everyone knows that the Almighty placed the moon in the heavens to give us light in our nighttime," Junias reiterated.

"Philosophically correct," Cephus acknowledged with a nod, "but I speak of scientific reasoning."

Now, as was well known, Cephus was well versed in most sciences, especially astronomy. Thus, everyone was eager to hear what he had to say.

"If we look at the shape of the moon, firstly, it is always round like a cannon shot."

"But not during its phases," Xanthe interjected. "It almost looks as if it were being devoured."

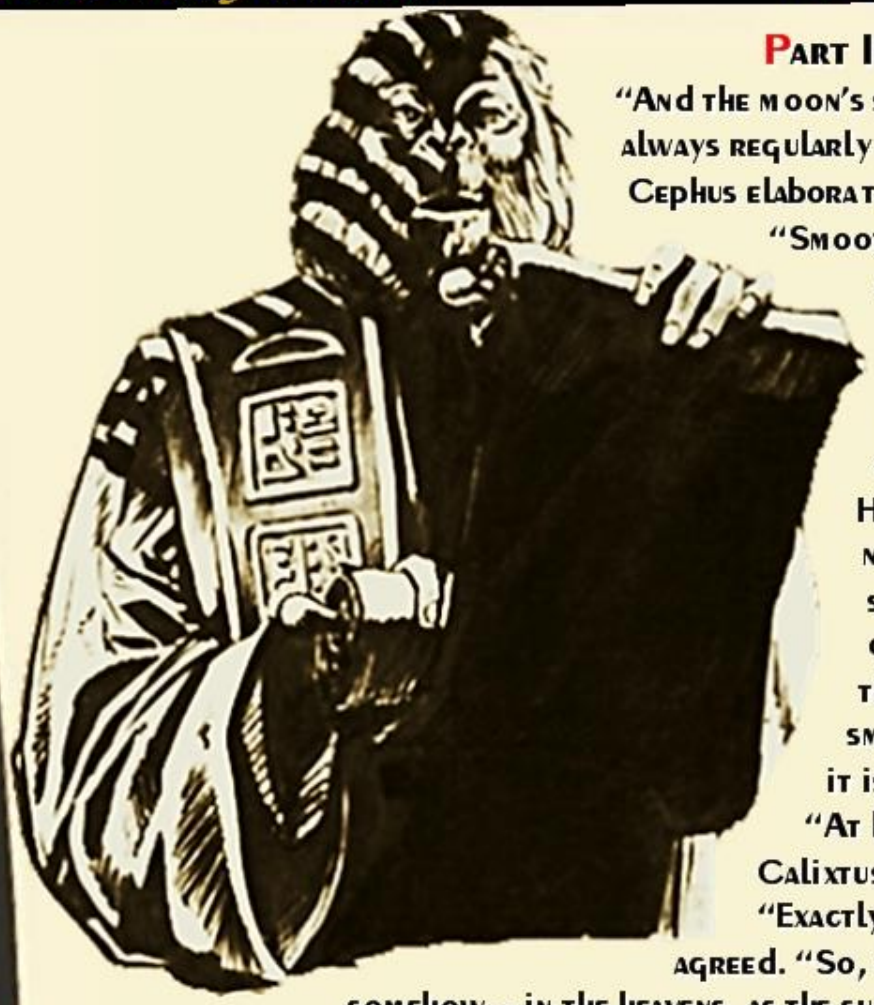
"So it appears. But if you look carefully, you can see that it has not changed shape. Rather, it appears to be entering some great shadow," Cephus corrected.

"Yes, that is so," the Lawgiver nodded, "I had not thought of that before."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XXIc



Part III

"And the moon's shadow is always regularly shaped," Cephus elaborated.

"Smooth." Everyone nodded in agreement.

"So, it is always the same shape. However, it is not always the same size. At certain times of the year it is smaller, at others, it is larger."

"At harvest-time," Calixtus offered.

"Exactly," Cephus agreed. "So, it moves – somehow – in the heavens, as the sun and stars move. And, there is more. I have looked closely, and I see that the face changes."

"What does that mean to you," the Lawgiver asked.

"The moon -- turns -- like a child's top," Cephus replied.

"So, the moon is round and it spins," Xanthe summed-up.

"Yes," Cephus confirmed. "You see what this means, don't you?"

Everyone fell silent.

"No," Xanthe feebly replied.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXIb

Part IV

"Now, consider this," Cephus pressed on, "when the soldiers set off an explosion in the ground, it leaves a tremendous hole, throwing dirt -- and spinning rocks -- into the air. I believe that long ago, a fantastic explosion, perhaps set off by man himself, threw the moon into the air."

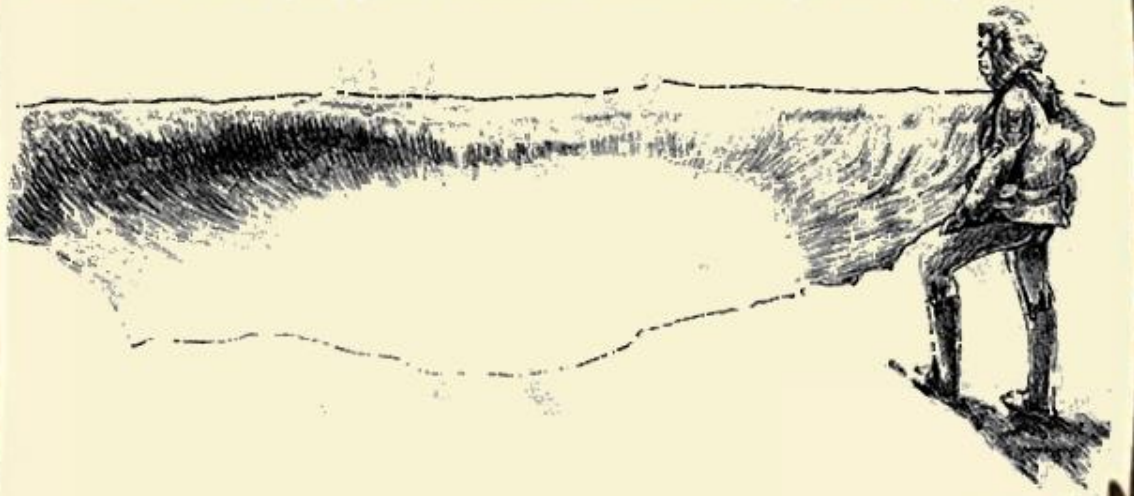
"You mean during the time the earth was scorched?"

"No, I believe it must have been before."

"Hmm. You pose a very interesting proposition, my dear prefect," Calixtus mused. "In my travels, maybe six weeks hard riding to the southwest, I came across this tremendous pit. A rounded pit in the floor of the desert." He began rummaging through his saddle bags, pulling out a sheaf of papers – his drawings of his travels. "Here is an illustration of it."

"But, why does the moon not fall?" Xanthe asked. Now it was Cephus' turn to fall silent.

"You scientists," Junias chuckled, shaking her head, "it does not fall because, *the Almighty* placed it in the heavens to light our nighttime."

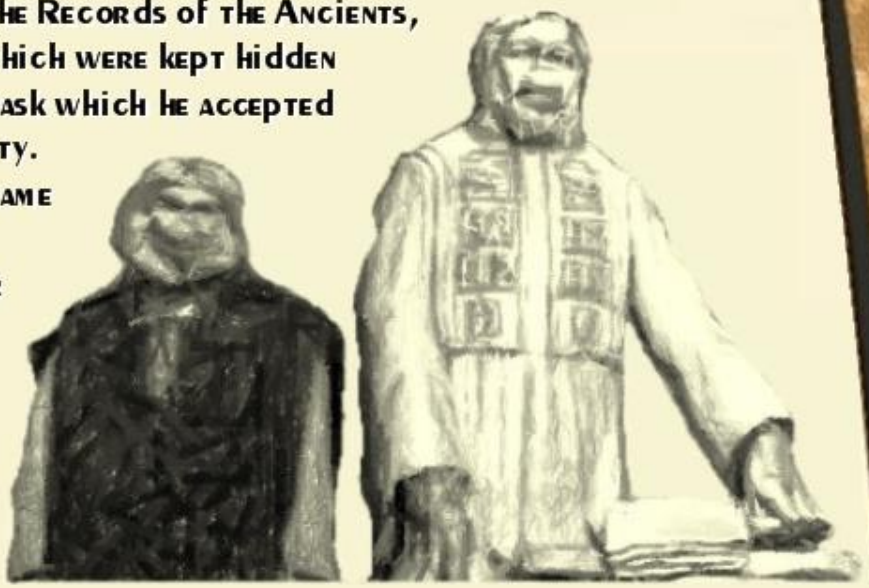


Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXIIa

Part I

Xanthe was given the honorable scribe's task of restoring to the Sacred Scrolls certain of the Records of the Ancients, specifically those which were kept hidden from the masses, a task which he accepted with all due humility.



One afternoon he came across the oldest record he had ever seen, a faintly readable account recorded by an obviously wise ape named MacDonald:

June 15, 2024 – CITIZEN'S COUNCIL MEETING

Some six years after the thwarting of Kolp and his army's unprovoked attack, a special meeting of the Citizen's Council was convened by Caesar, late in the cooling summer's evening in Ape City. When General Baato, the head of Caesar's army, arrived, after the rest of the Council members had entered the hut and seated themselves, he was followed by two of his armed soldiers escorting a chimpanzee with a bruised face; a young male around eighteen; a stranger, yet familiar. The chimpanzee's name was Zar. From the outset he struck members of the Council as more than taught-intelligent; he had an air of born-intelligence in his department, with wisdom of experience more than his young years merited.

This was understandable, as we were soon to see.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXIIb

Part II

"We found his camp on the North Ridge, after we discovered him spying on the City," General Baato explained when asked where the stranger had come from. "He looked to be encamped alone, and for a moon, at least."

Fenius, an orangutan, and Speaker for the Citizens' Council, stood, "General, what happened to this ape? His face?" indicating his bruised jaw and abraded brow.

"He was reluctant to speak with us." General Baato grabbed Zars arm, fixing him with a glare. "We had to persuade him to show us where he was camped."

Shaking his head, Fenius turned to Zar, "Young chimp, why were you spying on us?"

Zar remained silent.

General Baato gave him a rough shake, growling, "Answer the council-ape."

"That will not be necessary, General." Turning back to Zar, he asked, "What were you looking for?"

Zar looked Fenius up and down before replying. "I was searching for someone rumored to live here."

"And who might that be? Did you find them?" Fenius asked after a moment.

"Yes," Zar answered, "him," he nodded at Caesar; who was nonplussed.

"Why?"

"Because, I am his bastard son."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XXIIc

Part III

"I was conceived in the Breeding Annex of the Old City, prior to the Ape Rebellion, by my mother, Zora, and a male of our human-masters' choosing," Zar began, when asked for an explanation. "Little did they know who they chose to sire me," he looked pointedly at Caesar. Caesar, who had remained silent up until this point, shifted in his chair, "Continue."

"The night I was born, my mother was alone, in a tent, in a rotten pest-hole of a refugee camp up the Northern Territory; with the rain beating down and turning the grass to mud," Zar looked around at the councilors. "And do you know what she was? She was warm, and gentle and nurturing to me -- and left to her own devices when her mistress got liquored up after the Revolution and fell, striking her head and drowning in some creek."

Fenius asked, "How long ago was this?"

"Eighteen years," Zar replied.

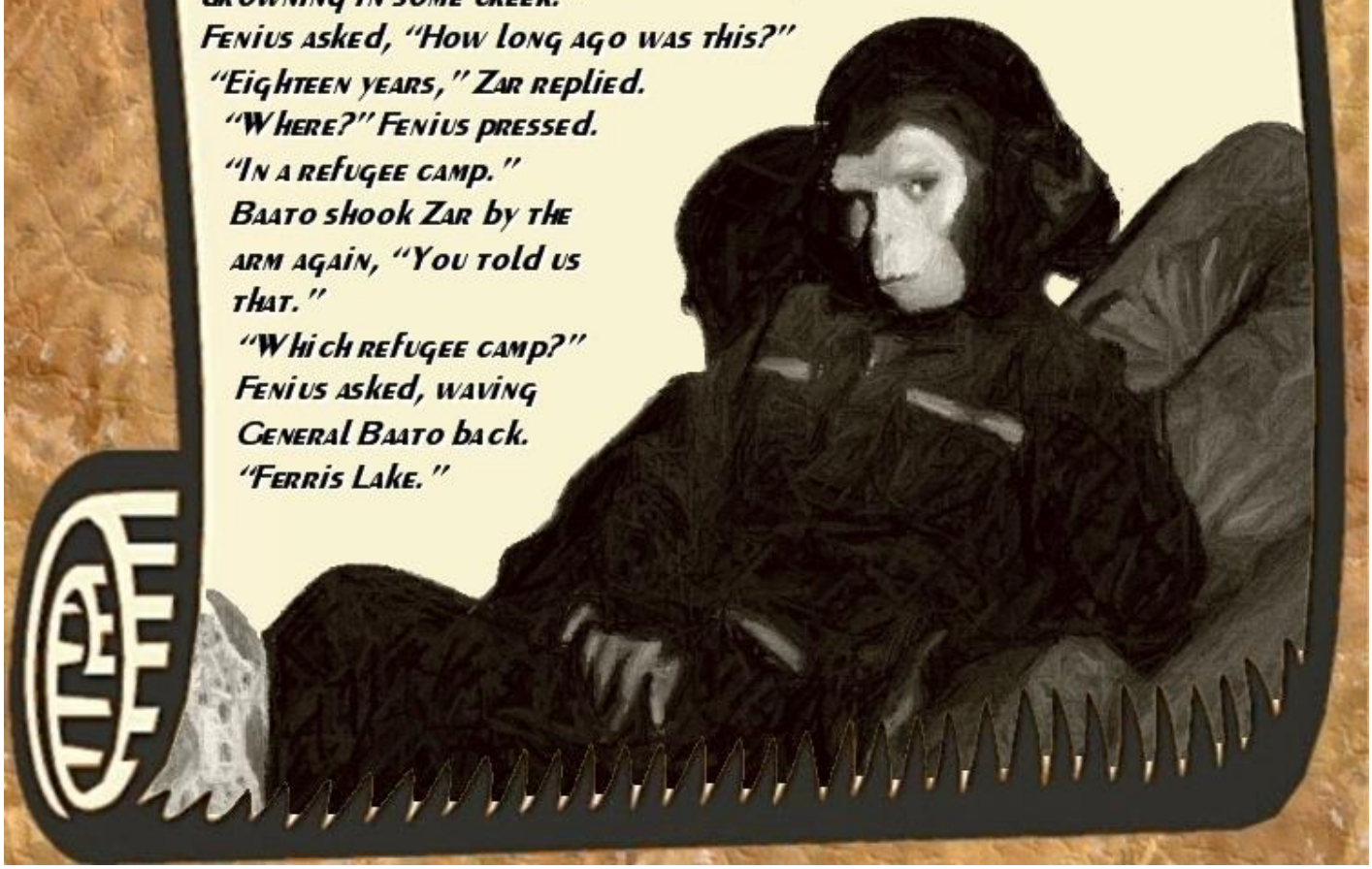
"Where?" Fenius pressed.

"In a refugee camp."

Baato shook Zar by the arm again, "You told us that."

"Which refugee camp?" Fenius asked, waving General Baato back.

"Ferris Lake."



Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz · Vol. II No. XXIIb

Part IV

"I know of this camp," Fenius remarked, "It was predominantly a human refuge, together with low-minded apes still in servitude."

Baato seized on that, "Sure. That means there would be lots of apes in that camp. And we all know the instincts of unrefined apes..."

"Baato!" Fenius cut him off.

"There was only one of my mother," Zar argued. "Besides, as I have already stated, I was conceived in the pre-Rebellion Breeding Annex. She told me my father was with her three days and two nights; and there never was another..."

"Convenient," snapped Baato. "Just a simple, sweet, innocent little romance..."

Fenius interrupted him, "What our General is clumsily trying to determine, is when you found out about your father..."

"Only a month ago," Zar spat out, his voice heavy.

Baato chided, "Oh, yeah, sure, sure."

"Why a month -- what happened a month ago? Fenius asked, ignoring the General.

"My mother died." The hut fell silent; Caesar staring at his folded hands in his lap.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXIIe

Part V

"What happened?" Caesar asked, softly.

"Great! Confessions from a deathbed," Baato mumbled.

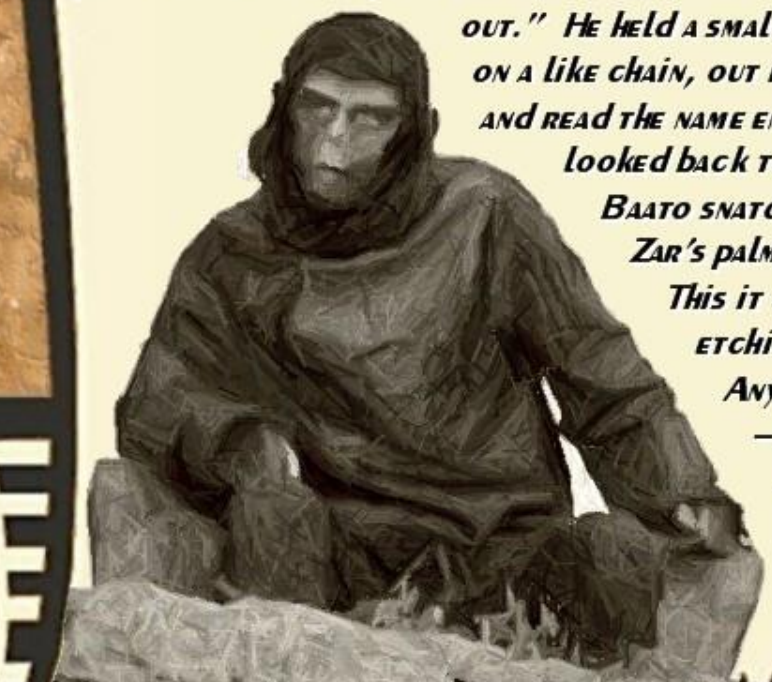
Fenius turned on the General, "Baato, that will be enough!" Then, turning back to Zar, he added, "Well?"

"Well," Zar began, exhaling deeply, "I had been up north, at an excavation, when a messenger came for me. He said she was sick, dying."

Zar stopped, his breath catching.

"Go on," Caesar urged, quietly.

"She never talked about who my father was, not in all these years. But it was something she wanted me to know, something she could not take to her grave. There was an old, dried-out leathern pouch in the pocket of her tunic, and she told me to get it. She said, 'Open it. Inside is a gift to me of your father's.' I started to, but the crumbly, old leathern practically disintegrated in my hands, the bottom rent and this fell out." He held a small, tarnished silver medal, on a like chain, out in his hand. "I picked it up and read the name engraved on the back. I looked back to her, but she was gone."



Baato snatched the medallion out of Zar's palm, reading it, "'Caesar'? This it -- all of it? Just an etching on a piece of metal? Anyone could have made this – at any time."

Zar turned on the General, pointing at Caesar, "He is my father."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXIIf

Part VI

Baato seized Zar's arm once again, "All right, chimp..."

"You do not believe me. I knew nobody would – aside from the one who was there at the beginning."

"Get out of Ape City. Tonight," Baato threatened.

Zar shrugged out of the General's grasp. "You are not abandoning me the way he abandoned her."

"You put together a touching story," Fenius remarked. "Not convincing, but touching."

"It is all true," Zar insisted.

"All right now, you listen to me, chimp," Baato began; threatening again. "I want you out of this hut, out of this City and out of this valley. And know this. If I ever lay eyes on you again, I am going to finish what I started tonight..."

"No," Caesar interrupted, gazing at the medallion dangling from his hand. "It is all true. Everything happened as he described with Zora. And this is the Saint Francis of Assisi medal given to me by my foster father, Armando; which he later engraved." Caesar looked up at Zar. "I did not know about you, Zar." He stood and, grasping his shoulders, looked into Zar's eyes. "This is my son; I am his father..."

To Xanthe's dismay, the rest of the record was so faded to obscurity as to be completely unreadable, and therefore lost to history.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXIIIa

Part I

Speaker Milonius walked through the evening coolness, down the almost deserted streets of Ape City, his right arm through the Lawgiver's left; half leading, half supporting the wizened, old orangutan philosopher.

"I am troubled, Lawgiver," the chimpanzee began, "and would like some advice, if you please."

"Indeed. How may I be of service?"

After a moment to gather his thoughts, Milonius replied, "I am concerned as to whether or not I should continue as the Speaker for the Citizen's Council."

"Strange turn of thought, seeing that you were just reappointed," the Lawgiver smiled.

"I know. And I am grateful; but, I fear --" the chimpanzee trailed off with a shrug.

"You fear that it is only that you are Caesar's descendant that you have been appointed."

"Yes, Lawgiver," Milonius replied, "And, I know I am nowhere near as wise as my illustrious ancestor was."

"Perhaps, perhaps not. Yet, the Council-apes believe you to be wise enough," the Lawgiver pointed out.

"I know, but --" Milonius again trailed off.

"You asked my advice; let me tell you something about your 'illustrious ancestor'."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XXIIIb

Part II

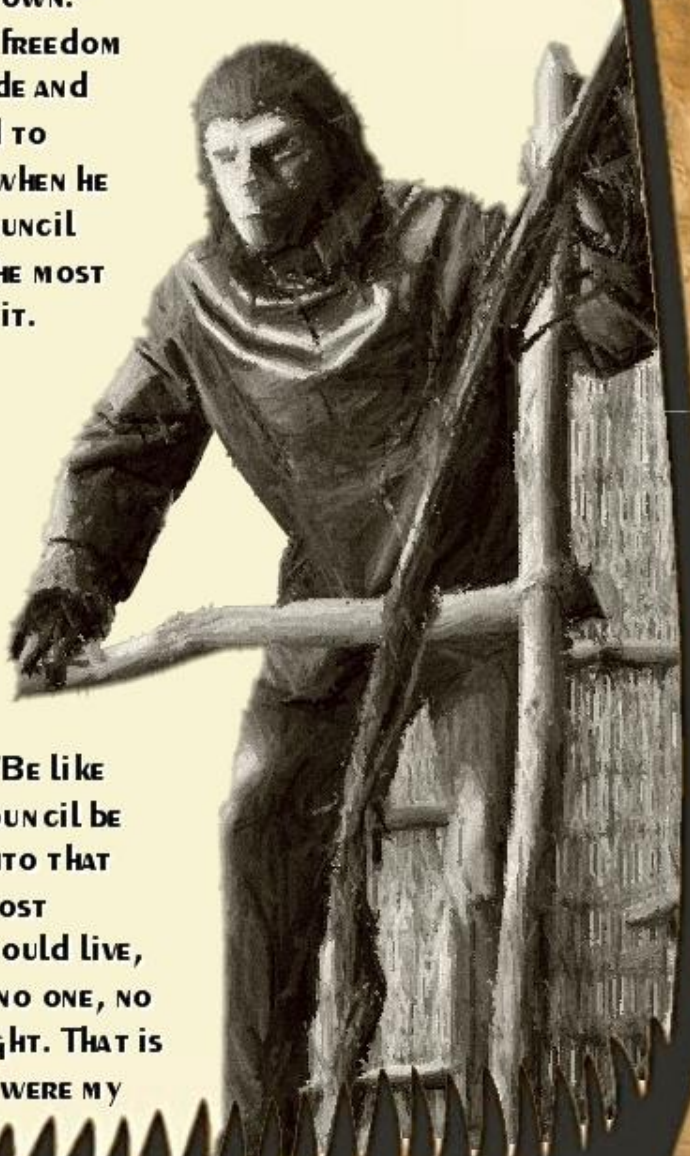
"He was an imperfect ape, Caesar was, and in so many ways that could be detrimental. But he never destroyed, only built and gave life. For he knew that what he brought was a changing way, a revolution of its own, that said, 'You are a free creature that no one, not another ape, nor a human, nor even Caesar can own.'

"And he knew it was a battle for freedom you won only with courage, pride and leadership. That is what he tried to instill in the Citizen's Council when he formed it. If you examine the Council Records, you will see that, in the most basic of ways, he accomplished it.

Yet, he knew that it was not a battle that could be won in a year, a decade, or even a lifetime.

"And then one day he made a terrible, wretched mistake. He died before anyone really understood.

"And so, if it were my choice, I would say to you, 'Be like Caesar' because he let the Council be free, to grow and develop into that entity we see that governs most perfectly today. Live as he would live, fight as he would fight, and no one, no one can deny you his birthright. That is what I would advise you if it were my choice."



Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol II No. XXIV

General Torous stood in the shadows of the amphitheater, listening to the Lawgiver's concluding remarks to his class:

"...and thus we can see how, as a parent raising their young, it is best to treat all citizens, no matter what age, gender or race, with firm command of our emotions. Are there any questions?"

"So you are saying that we need to be unemotional?" Torous challenged.

The Lawgiver smiled, "Not at all. To command requires a presence."

"What about anger? Anger is anger -- especially with humans," the General snapped.

"Anybody can become angry -- that is easy. But to be angry with the right individual, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way -- that is not within every ape's power and is not easy."

"Bah!" General Torous threw his hands in the air, "I am governed by the natural laws the Creator set in motion. That way, I am always sure to win, because He is on my side."

"That is folly," the Lawgiver countered. "General, my concern is not whether the Creator is on *my* side; my greatest concern is to be on the Almighty's side, for I believe the Almighty to always be right."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXV

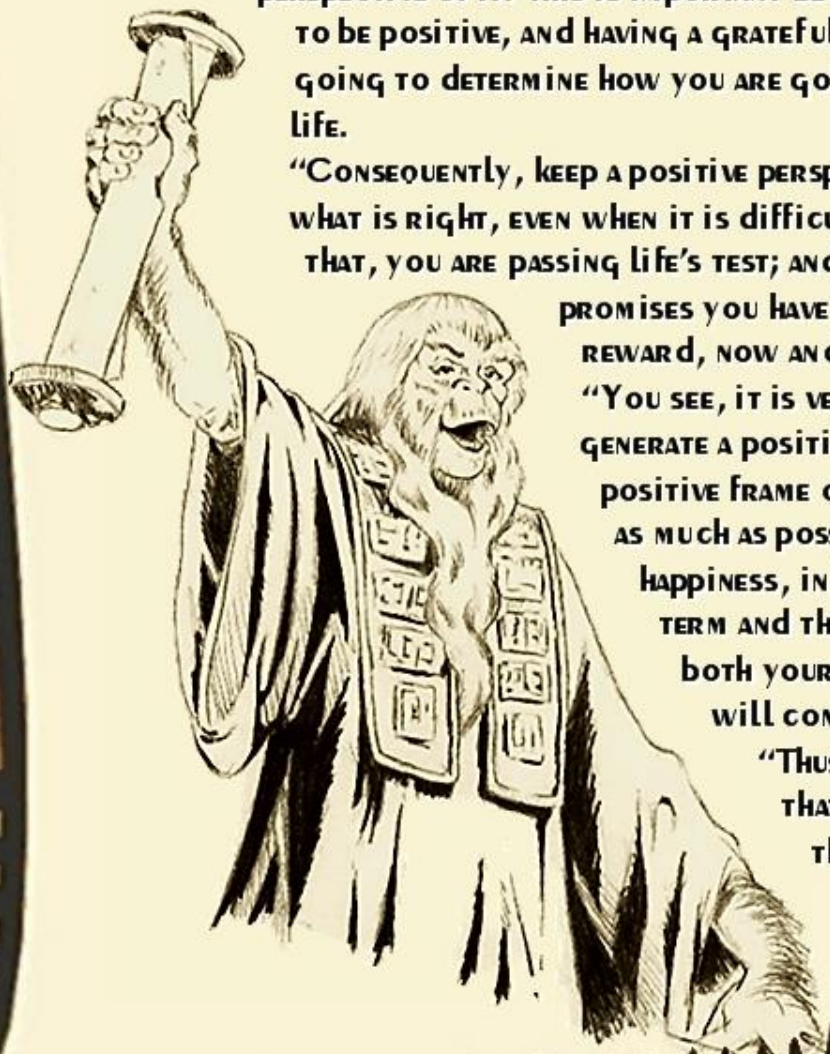
The Lawgiver was teaching a class of adolescents, when the inevitable question of attaining satisfaction, contentment – happiness, was raised. He sat in silence, his pursed lips on his folded hands, before he launched into one of his most profound monologues:

"If you have an unhappy situation in your life, take command of yourself and change it. If you cannot change your situation, change your perspective of it. This is important because, choosing to be positive, and having a grateful perspective, is going to determine how you are going to live your life.

"Consequently, keep a positive perspective, and do what is right, even when it is difficult. When you do that, you are passing life's test; and the Almighty promises you have earned your reward, now and in times to come.

"You see, it is very important to generate a positive perspective, a positive frame of mind and heart, as much as possible. From this, happiness, in both the short term and the long term, for both yourself and others, will come.

"Thus, it can be seen that perspective is that little thing that makes a huge difference."



Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXVIa

Part I

A terrible tragedy fell over Ape City, one crisp wintery morning. A messenger had arrived, bearing the sad news that venerable old Doctor Quato, Chief Professor of History, on an archaeological dig in the Eastern Desert, had inadvertently tripped an explosive device of the Ancients', killing him and two of his assistants.

General Torous, ready to seize any opportunity to promote his anti-human views, proclaimed before the Citizen's Council, "It is the fault of our former human masters, and today's humans are no better. It is as I have been saying; we must distance ourselves from the human infestation, before we all end up in the past."

The Lawgiver raised his hand for silence, quieting the gorilla voices raised in agreement with the General, "Quiet, please. Although tragic, this incident is no platform for furthering private agendas. We must answer the question regarding the detection and disarming of such devices as took poor Doctor Quato from us, that in the future --"

"I and my troops have the answer – for today and the future," interrupted General Torous, shaking his rifle over his head. The rest of his troops mimicked his action, or applauded.

"General," the Lawgiver began, patiently, "violence is no answer."

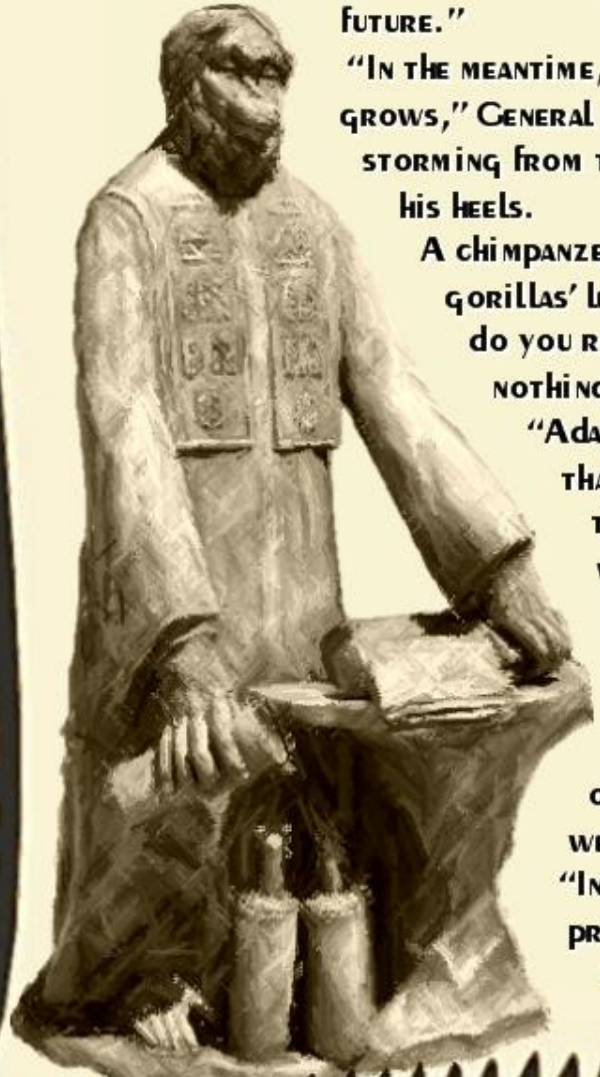
"It is the gorilla answer," Torous snapped. "You disagree because it is not your intellectual orangutan answer. A weak answer."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXVIb

Part II

"Let us not seek an orangutan answer or a gorilla answer, a chimpanzee or even a human answer; but the correct answer for the benefit of the majority of all," the Lawgiver continued, accompanied by the murmurs and nodding agreement by the orangutan and chimpanzee councilors. "It serves no purpose to seek to fix the blame for the past mistakes. Instead, let us each mutually accept our own responsibility for everyone's future."



"In the meantime, we die and the human plague grows," General Torous snapped, before storming from the meeting, his troops close on his heels.

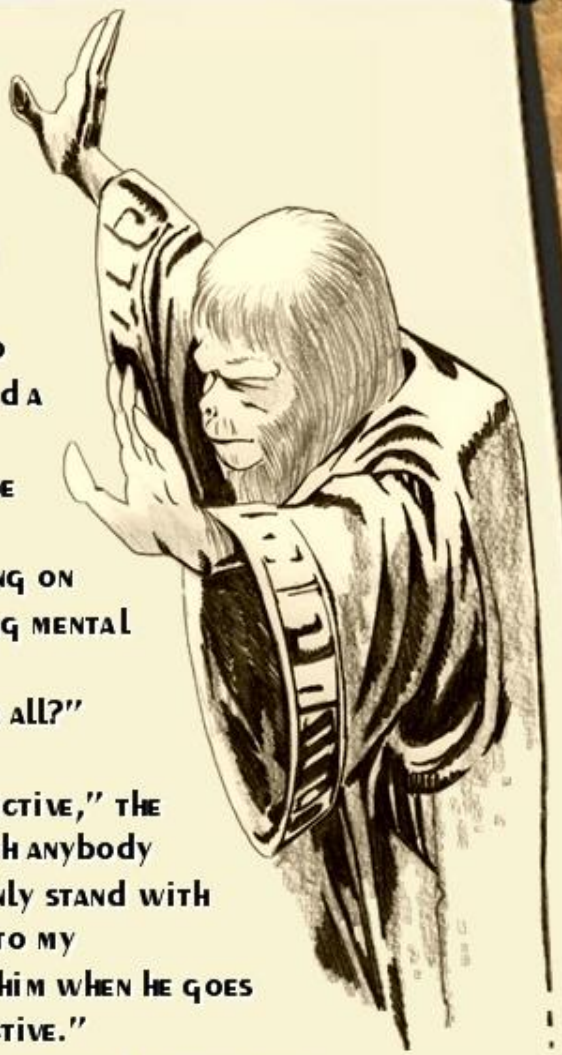
A chimpanzee stood in the wake of the gorillas' leaving, asking, "Lawgiver, what do you recommend, for we cannot do nothing."

"Adapt," the Lawgiver replied, letting that word sink in. "Adaptation is the law of life; and thus, those who look *only* to the past or present are certain to miss the future. We must learn from the past, set vivid, detailed goals for the future, but live in the only moment of time over which we have any control: the present. "In fact, let him who would enjoy a prosperous future waste none of his present."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXVII

In the Lawgiver's Ethics Class, Protégé Sura had posed the question, "Is it right to conquer a vanquished foe, or to let them alone, to grow strong again as an adversary?"



"I do not choose to conquer; instead, I choose to be true to myself. I do not choose to vanquish, but I do choose to live by the light that I have." He paused a moment, then continued, "You see, it is simply that nothing can stop the ape with the right mental attitude from achieving his choice; however, nothing on earth can help the ape with the wrong mental attitude."

"Then, you recommend pacifism over all?" Protégé Ventor asked, standing.

"True pacifism is a matter of perspective," the Lawgiver smiled. "I must stand with anybody that stands true; however, I can only stand with him while he is right – according to my perspective, and I must part with him when he goes wrong – according to my perspective."

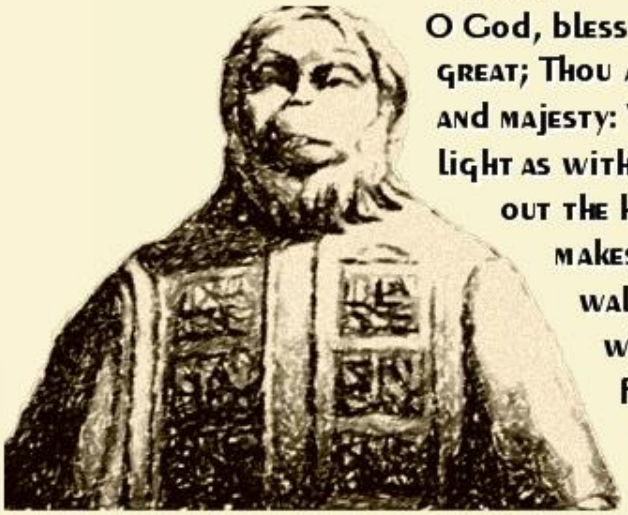
"I see," Protégé Ventor remarked, taking his seat again.

"Consider also class, that all pacifistic intent can be brought to naught by the wrong word spoken at the wrong time." The Lawgiver stroked his beard, concluding, "Remember this truism, not only is it easy to say the right thing in the right place, but it is far more difficult to leave *un*said the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXVIIIa

Part I



O God, bless we pray Thee, Thou art very great; Thou art vestured with honor and majesty: Who clothes Thyself with light as with a garment: Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain: Who makes the clouds his steed: Who walks upon the wings of the wind: Who laid the foundations of the earth, that apekind should have a residence forever.

Thou covered the earth with the deep as with a blanket: the waters at Thy voice of thunder they go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which Thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; Thou sent the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every creation: apekind and beast, they quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. Thou watered the gardens from Thy vessels: apekind rejoices with the fruit of Thy works.

Thou caused the trees to be lush; which Thou hast planted, where the fowls make their nests; and the grasses to grow for the cattle. The high hills are a refuge for the goats, and the rocks for the milk providers. And Thou created herbs for the service of apekind: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; and wine that makes glad the heart of apekind, and olive oil to make his hirsute face to shine, and bread which strengthens apekind's bodily beauty...

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol II No. XXVIIIb

Part II

O God, bless we pray Thee, Thou appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knows his setting. Thou made darkness, and it is night: wherein the beast man doth creep forth and steal their food. The sun arises, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. Apekind goes forth unto his fields and to his labors until the evening.

How manifold art Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches. So is this great and wide land, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both wild and domestic beasts, whom Thou hast made to play therein. Apekind waits all upon Thee; that Thou may provide them their food in due season. That Thou provide they gather: Thou open Thine hand, they are filled.

Thou hides Thy face, apekind are troubled: Thou takes away their breath, they pass and return to dust. Thou looked on the earth, and it trembled: Thou touched the mountains, and they smoked. Thou sent forth Thy Spirit, they are created: and Thou renews the face of the earth. The glory of God shall endure forever: apekind shall rejoice in Thy works.

I will sing unto God as long as I live: I will sing praise to my Creator while I have my breath. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in God. Let the upright beasts be consumed out of the earth, and let the brutish men be no more. Bless Thou God, O my soul, and Praise be Thine.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXIXa

Part I

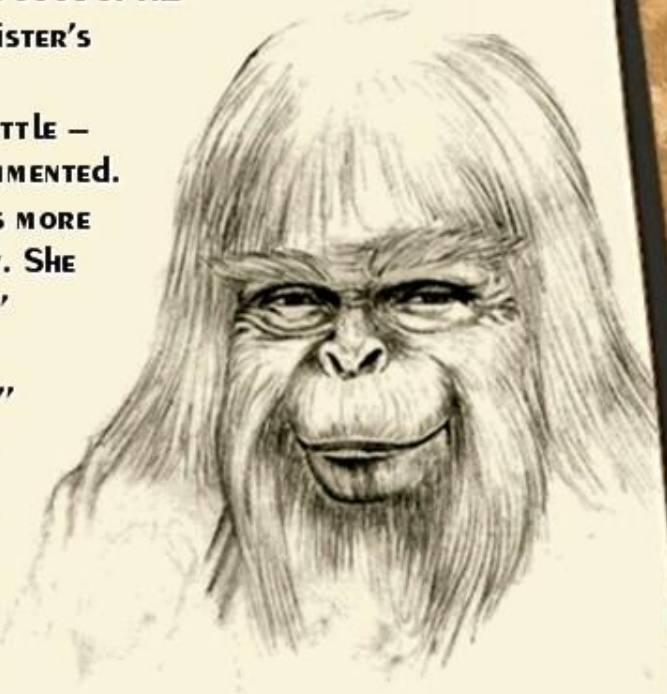
The Lawgiver walked through the cool of the evening accompanied by his half-sister's youngest son, Varro.

"Your mother tells me you had little – disagreement," the Lawgiver commented.

Laughing, Varro replied, "It was more like an animated debate, actually. She did not agree with my opinion."

"Ah," the Lawgiver exhaled, understandingly. "Which was?"

"Well, let me preface by saying she did show me my error," Varro began. "I had felt that I was owed assistance in starting my career; owed by the Council or society."



"Oh, I see," the Lawgiver nodded. Then, after a few moments of silence, "Would you care for a little advice?"

"Yes, please."

"I feel one should not go around believing *anyone* owes them a living. Society owes us nothing. It was here before us; and will more than likely be here when we have passed."

Varro nodded his agreement, and then commented, "I am not sure what I should do."

"No one should tell someone else unequivocally what they should do. Only advise."

"Well, uncle, what would you advise?" Varro smiled.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol II No. XXIXb

Part II

"My advice? For deciding on starting a career? Hmm, tricky," the Lawgiver mused. "My advice would be to remind you that, in any moment of decision, the *best* thing you can do is generally the right thing; whereas, the second best thing is usually the wrong thing; but the worst thing you can do is -- nothing."

"I don't think I understand --"

"You see," the Lawgiver pressed on, "a life spent learning from our mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

"Yes, I believe I do," Varro smiled, "you are saying that, the only thing necessary for the fostering of that which is non-progressive is for good apes to do nothing."

"Exactly so," the Lawgiver patted his shoulder. "And, unless good apes, like you and I, care a great deal, our harmonious innocence is not going to continue. It just is not."

They walked on quietly for a few moments before the Lawgiver broke their silence, "Choose a career that promotes that harmonious innocence. That is the life that I would advise."

Lesson From The Lawgiver

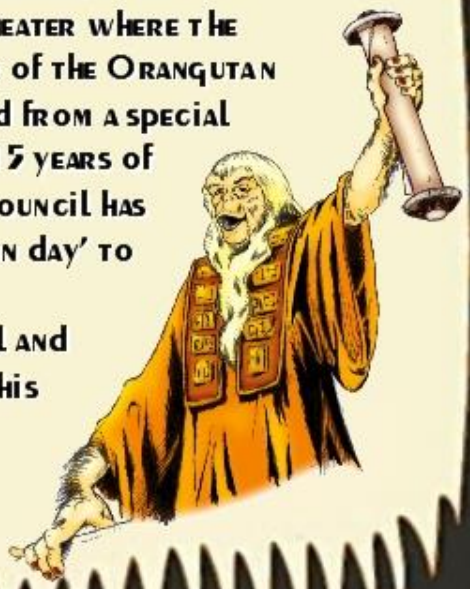
Art by Glen Scheetz & Dave Ballard

Vol. II No. XXX

The Lawgiver awoke and readied himself for the opening session of the newly elected Citizens' Council. This was a yearly event that took place every August 31st, a month after the Ape City elections and was the Lawgiver's favorite day of the year. While his role was mostly ceremonial, he took great pride in calling the new Council into session, swearing in the new members and announcing the officers of each caucus. It was simian democracy in action. The Lawgiver had done this for so long that he had lost count as to how many years.

The streets were strangely deserted as the Lawgiver walked to the amphitheater at the city's center. He wondered if some disaster had befallen the city while he slept. The silence was almost eerie.

As he neared the final street that led to the amphitheater, the Lawgiver heard a low rumble of whispered voices. Then he turned the final corner and the sight startled him. The whole population of Ape City was in and around the amphitheater waiting for him. Over the entrance hung a banner, "Happy 15th Anniversary Lawgiver". A group of Orangutan, Chimpanzee and Gorilla children ran to him and presented him with flowers. They then led him into the amphitheater where the assembled Apes applauded. Zaius the leader of the Orangutan delegation and Speaker of the Council read from a special scroll, "In recognition of the Lawgiver's 15 years of service to the community, the outgoing Council has voted this day to be 'Lawgiver appreciation day' to celebrate his ongoing contribution to Simiankind". The Lawgiver took the scroll and addressed the assembled, "Thank you for this kind honor, but it is all of you who make this such a great and fine community. I am proud and honored to have served you all during the last 15 years".



Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XXXI

The Lawgiver was asked to speak at the wake for Doctor Quato, Chief Professor of History, who had died recently in the Eastern Desert.

* * *

"At sad times, such as these, it is comforting to remember that being deeply loved by someone gives the ape strength, while loving someone deeply in return gives them courage. Madame Vesta, here," the Lawgiver gesture to Doctor Quato's widow, "is a prime example of this truism, having been loved so deeply.

"You see, we gain strength and courage by each experience in which we really stop to look fear and sadness in the face. In other words, we gain the ability to do that which we think we cannot. I have learned that courage is not the absence of sorrow and fear, but the triumph over it. The brave ape is not he who does not feel afraid or sad, but he who commands those emotions. Success with this is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the strength of courage to continue that counts. Because, courage is being fearful or saddened, and pressing forward anyway.

"Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point. Courage is the strength it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also the strength it takes to sit down and listen."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXXIIa

Part I

General Torous paced back and forth before the Citizen's Council, fuming. The Lawgiver was in attendance, as well, seated quietly off to one side.

"I cannot believe we are still discussing this! Two of my finest soldiers are in hospital because of humans. Any sane ape can plainly see that we must change policies to survive." The General looked pointedly at the Lawgiver, as he repeated, "Any *sane* ape."

The look was not lost on anyone, and many on the Council were curious as to how the Lawgiver would respond. He stood slowly, watching General Torous seat himself out of the corner of his eye. There was an audible gasp from the councilors, as the Lawgiver said, "General Torous is right."

Leaping to his feet, the General bellowed, "I object!" then, "-- right?"

"Yes, right," the Lawgiver smiled. "Change is inevitable. But to remain free to choose how that change develops, and where it leads, requires continuous struggle. And so we must stand on our own two feet and work for our freedom -- for all," he looked pointedly at the General, who was reseating himself. "For no ape can control you if you are not on your knees."

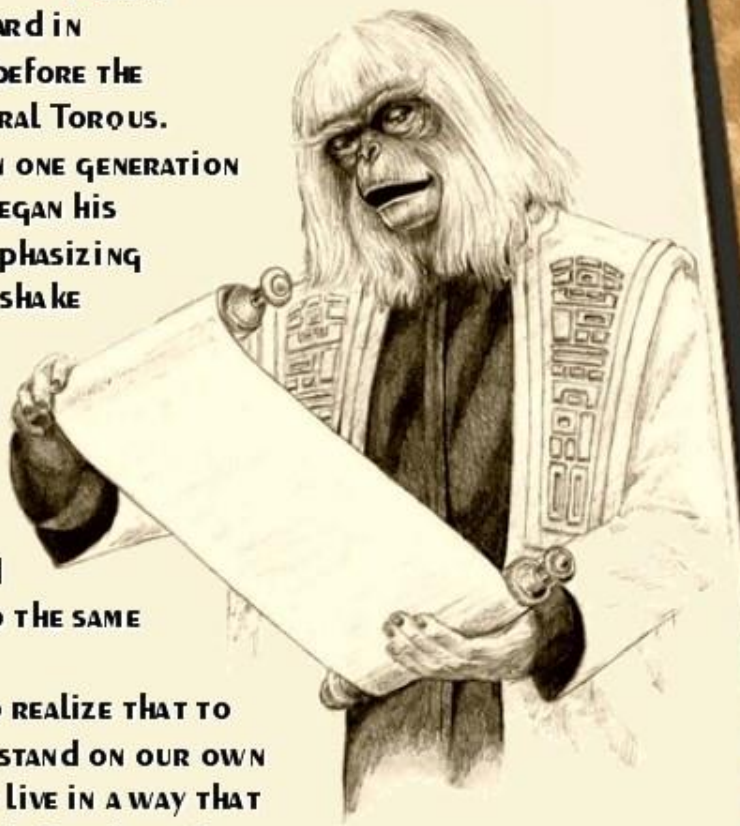
Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol II No. XXXIIb

Part II

The Lawgiver stroked his beard in contemplation, as he stood before the Citizen's Council, and General Torqus.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction," he began his elaboration, pacing, and emphasizing with a nod of his head or a shake of his finger. "We did not pass it to our offspring in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, explained, and handed on for them to do the same for their children.



"They must be taught to realize that to be free is not merely to stand on our own two feet, alone, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others – and, I repeat, for all -- for those who deny this freedom to others does not deserve it for themselves. It must apply equally to everyone, human as well as ape, or it means nothing.

"Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which *chance* has placed us, but is always the result of conscientious effort, a clear conscience, good health, and freedom in all just pursuits."

That being said, the Lawgiver took his seat again, in silence. Even General Torqus remained quiet.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XXXIII

The Lawgiver sat under his favorite oak tree, in the cool of the late-spring afternoon, entertaining the young ones of Ape City.

"Who would like to hear a silly poem?" he asked. The children jumped up and down, competing for who could scream, "Me, me!" the loudest.

The Lawgiver motioned for them to settle, with a smile, saying, "Alright, alright. Calm down." And once they had, he said, "Let me see, now. Oh, I know -- *'I am told that my poem should address, Anna-Banana and her dress. But I find no one sane, Who goes by that name. Who she is, where she lives -- is anyone's guess.'*" The young ones giggled in that way children do; then a girl asked, "That's not fair, what about the boys?" A chorus of, "Yes!" and, "The boys!" followed.

When the Lawgiver had calmed the young ones once again, he said, "By all means, equal time, to be sure. How about – *'There once was a young ape from Louth, Who never-ever opened his mouth. Because, when he did, Why, everyone kid! And cried "Good lad, please continue south!"'"*

And when the children giggled this time, the Lawgiver found himself chuckling right along with them.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol II No. XXXIVa

Xanthe was hard at work, diligently restoring to the Sacred Scrolls certain of the Records of the Ancients. He was chosen by the Lawgiver for this honorable task because Xanthe was a sagacious ape.

This evening, while he sorted through the section specifically set down for the office of Chief Defender of the Faith, he came across the strangest and most unique record he had ever read:

Central City was new; and it was growing. Her people's crops were rich and plentiful; the ape citizens themselves healthy and contented. There were next to no men-beasts within a day's walk of any ape habitation. Little did anyone realize that a cloud of doom hung low over the horizon.

Minerva, the orangutan President of the Assembly, was on a mission of urgency. She was quickly heading to keep her appointment with Dr. Cassandra; being hustled along by the young chimpanzee messenger who was tugging her along by her hand. The orangutan Dr. Cassandra, easily in her eighty-sixth year of age, was the first Chief Defender of the Faith. She had been appointed by Leggedare himself because of her uncannily accurate abilities of prophecy. She was also quite blind.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

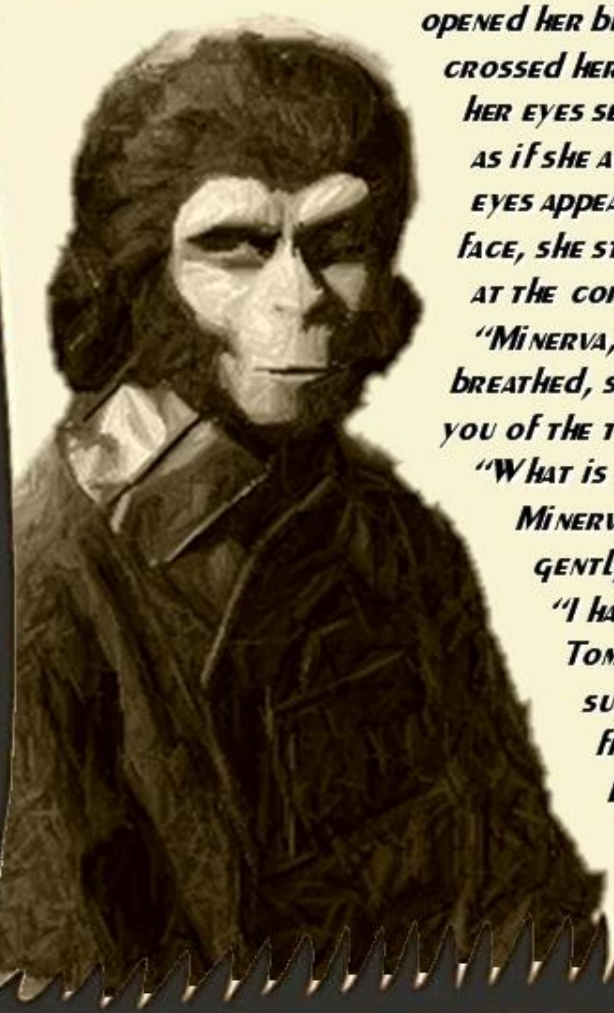
Vol II No. XXXIVb

Upon entering Dr. Cassandra's abode, which also served as her office, the young chimpanzee ushered Minerva over to Dr. Cassandra's bedside, where she reclined as still as death; attended to by a female chimpanzee nurse. The messenger promptly bowed low, then straightaway left. Minerva pulled over a nearby chair, sat herself and touched Dr. Cassandra lightly on her shoulder.

"What is it, Cassy? Have you had another vision?" Dr. Cassandra had had more visions as of late, as her health had gradually declined.

"Cassy?"

Dr. Cassandra stirred feebly, took a long, deep breath; and slowly opened her blind eyes. A perplexed look crossed her face, as her brow wrinkled and her eyes seemed to roam around the room, as if she actually could see it. When her eyes appeared to find Minerva's concerned face, she stopped, and a weak smile tugged at the corners of her mouth.



"Minerva, my sweet sister," Dr. Cassandra breathed, suddenly sobering. "I must tell you of the threat to all ape kind."

"What is it, Cassy? What did you see?" Minerva asked, patting her sister gently.

"I have seen the Arrowheads of Tomorrow!" Dr. Cassandra suddenly declared in a voice so firm, steady and commanding as to be at odds with her frail, emaciated body.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XXXIVc

"Arrowheads...?" Minerva questioned, not understanding.

"I have seen three – four!" Dr. Cassandra pressed on. "They have the heart of the beast – man...With eyes black as the night; and cold! Hollow eyes they are, and void!"

"Cassy, explain, please," Minerva fairly pleaded, "I do not understand."

"White they are – like the icy hands of Death!"

"How are they a threat?" Minerva asked, still confused.

"They are a product of man, and carry mutant-men within their bellies!" Dr. Cassandra breathed raggedly, coughing. "They are loosed to the starry sky already; and fly on shafts of flame!" she rasped.

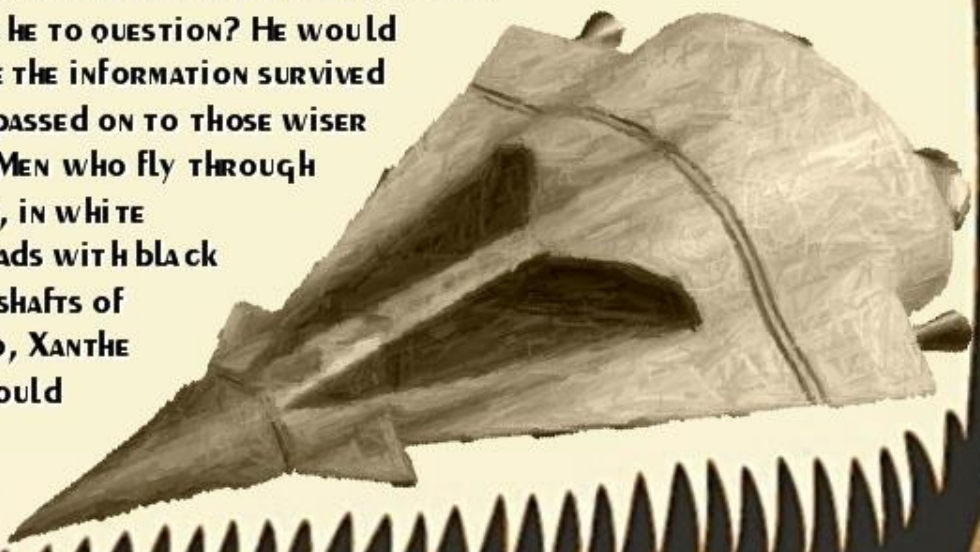
"Cassy, calm yourself," Minerva tried to console her sister, "rest."

Dr. Cassandra rose up in her bed, choking, "They must be warned! My successor must know these things!" She collapsed back onto her pillows, and breathed out in the final rattle.

Xanthe was in a quandary. Was this account for real – or was it merely a fable? Should he keep it intact or should it go into the flames? The Lawgiver trusted him to use good judgment when it came to what to pass on to the next Council and what to dispose of.

The Lawgiver had believed Dr. Cassandra.

Who was he to question? He would make sure the information survived and was passed on to those wiser than he. Men who fly through the stars, in white arrowheads with black eyes, on shafts of flame. No, Xanthe wisely would not question.



Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XXXVa

The Lawgiver was settling himself under his shady oak tree with his granddaughter Neeka and her friends. This was his favorite time of the day, when the children would gather together to eat their midday meal and talk. He paused, glancing up, as Torquatus and Ursinus, sons of General Torous, strode down the hot, dusty lane to the oak. What especially caught his attention was the fact that Ursinus was laboring under the weight of the basket of fruit, although he was younger and smaller than his brother, while Torquanus carried only a small canteen.

"Gather around, children. I have a tale for you," the Lawgiver called out. The children hurried to find a spot, with Ursinus being last, then he began.

"A mountain ape was making his annual trek to the City to obtain supplies. He led two pack-horses, one being a colt on his first trip. On the journey home, the elder pack-horse was carrying most of the supplies, while the colt had some packs but was mostly loaded down with a year's supply of salt. Now, the road to and from the mountain ape's ranch lay across a sluggish stream into which the colt, slipping on a wet stone, fell by accident."

"Was he hurt?" Neeka asked, as the children gasped.

"No," the Lawgiver replied, smiling, "Unhurt, he rose up again with his load considerably lighter, as the water had dissolved all the salt."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXXVb

"There was nothing left for the mountain ape do," the Lawgiver resumed, "so he retraced his steps to the City and refilled the colt's saddlebags with salt; and resettled the packs. When he came again to the sluggish stream, the colt fell down *on purpose* in the same spot, and, regaining his feet with the weight of his load much diminished, whinnied as if in triumph."

Torquatus chuckled, "Smart horse."

Apparently ignoring him, the Lawgiver continued, "Now the mountain ape realized what the colt had learned. So, he led the horses for the third time to the City, where he bought more salt, and a few other items, and divided them between the pack-horses. The colt, again feigning clumsiness, fell down on purpose when he reached the stream, but the mountain ape had loaded the colt's packs mostly with skins and hides, which became swollen with water, greatly increasing his load."

Looking Torquatus squarely in the eye, the Lawgiver concluded, "And the lesson is, it is best to carry your fair share of a burden, lest you end up carrying a double portion."

Glancing at his brother, then the pack of fruit, Ursinus threw the basket's strap over Torquatus' shoulder, then nodded and smiled.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXXIV

The Lawgiver sat himself in the amphitheater, with his wisest students ranged round about him, in the cool of the summer's morning. The topic they had been debating among themselves was empathy; and, once seated, they promptly asked the Lawgiver, "In your perspective, sir, what is empathy?"

"Ah, good question," the Lawgiver smiled. He lapsed into silence a moment, and then smiled again. "Empathy is that capacity within to recognize emotions or feelings that are being experienced by another."

"That is it?" his students asked.

"Not quite," the Lawgiver shook his head, "That is a mere definition. True empathy influences our perspectives of self, to one degree or another. Here is an example:

"Some gorilla youths were playing skill-games near the river, when one of them saw a number of frogs by the bank, in still waters. The gorilla wagered that he could hit two with one stone before they submerged. Another took him up on his wager; and the two began to throw stones at the frogs, quickly. They killed several of them without deciding their wager, when I happened by, and beseeched them, saying, "Please cease, young apes! What is sport to you is needless pain and death to them.

"The two youths stopped, considered my words, and then dropped the stones, leaving the frogs in peace."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XXXVII

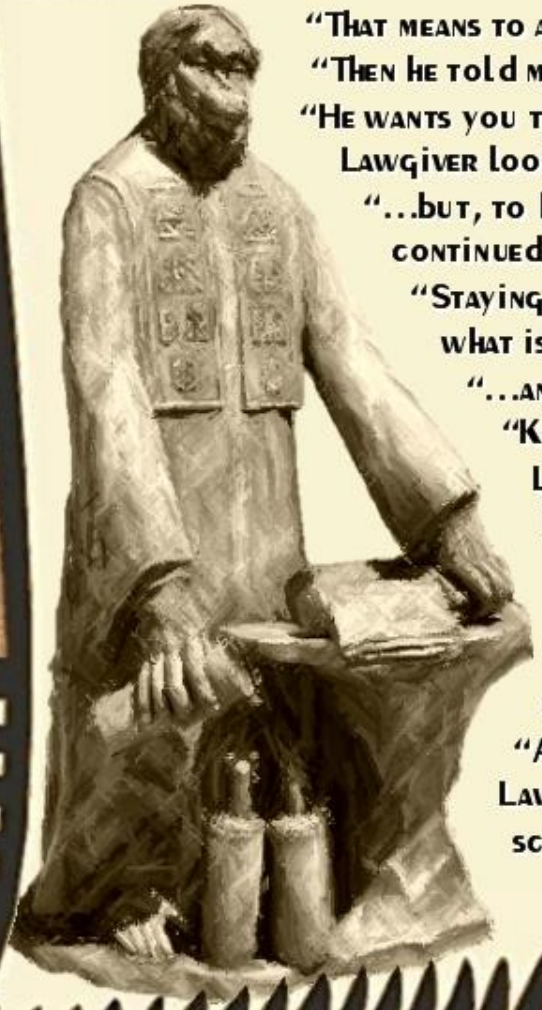
The Lawgiver was awakened one morning by his youngest nephew, Varro. "Uncle, Papo's been giving me career advice on tending the soldiers' horses," he began, sitting beside his mother's brother, "but, I'm confused."

"Indeed," the Lawgiver yawned. "What did he tell you?"

"Well, to begin with, he said to keep my nose to the grindstone."

"Oh," the Lawgiver smiled, "He meant to work hard and steadily."

"Well, then he said I should keep my shoulder to the wheel," Varro continued.



"That means to apply yourself earnestly to your job."

"Then he told me to keep my head down..."

"He wants you to lie low; try not to be noticed." The Lawgiver looked puzzled.

"...but, to keep my eye on the ball..." Varro continued.

"Staying alert and paying close attention to what is happening around you."

"...and, keep my ear to the ground."

"Keeping informed about things," the Lawgiver explained, looking more bewildered.

"Lastly, he said above all else, to keep my chin up," Varro concluded.

"That means he wants you to be self-confident."

"All that while I shovel manure?" The Lawgiver and his nephew sat side-by-side scratching their heads in confusion.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXXVIIIa

During the years when Central City was newly established, there was a small Gibbon Village in the adjoining valley, some of the citizens who traded with Central City merchants. One of the peculiarities of Gibbon Village was how they kept men as pets and beasts of burden.

* * *

General Torous called for a convocation of the Citizen's Council. Being a person of some esteem, the Council was immediately convened.

Arrius, the Speaker for the Citizen's Council, stood, as members of the Council hurriedly sat, "To all gathered, this emergency meeting of the Citizen's Council is in session; called by General Torous, who is present. You may proceed, General." He sat, as the General stood, pacing.

"We have a pestilence in our midst," General Torous launched into his grievance, "a pestilence our illustrious leaders have turned a blind eye to." He gestured pointedly at the Lawgiver.

"If you would please come to the point, General," Arrius demanded.

"Gladly," the General smiled, lacking any humor, "gladly. I speak of the gibbons and their human pestilence invading our city!"

"Human pestilence?" Arrius echoed, questioning. "The gibbons keep them chained..."

"All humans are evil!" General Torous bellowed, slamming his fist onto the stone table.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XXXVIIIb

"We need to march – now; to grind the bestial human maggots under our boot-heels..." General Torqus ranted.

"And what of the rightful owners of those animals?" Arrius interrupted, "Fellow apes, the gibbons?" The General and the Speaker went silent as the Lawgiver stood.

"I, too, have concerns regarding the gibbons' humans; because man cannot be tamed. However, the basic problems facing ape society in Central City today are not susceptible to a military solution," the Lawgiver replied.

"It is plain to me that we need a military presence in Gibbon Village, to quell any..."

The Lawgiver interrupted the General, saying, "Those who make peaceful solutions impossible will make violent solutions inevitable."

"In the end, every soldier knows that true peace can only be won through power," General Torqus reasoned, smacking his fist into his palm.. "No. Apekind must put an end to violence before violence puts an end to ape kind," the Lawgiver concluded. Fuming, the General stormed out, ending the Council.

* * *

The Gibbon Village was completely destroyed by their bestial humans, shortly after this emergency Council was held. What has never been adequately explained, however, is how they escaped from their padlocked cages; nor why or how they turned on their simian masters with guns.

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XXXIXa

The time had arrived for the Citizen's Council to assemble for its bi-lunar meeting. After all the 'old business' was completed, 'new business' was called for and the Chief Defender of the Faith, a soft-spoken, white-haired orangutan, stood.

The Chair-ape of the Council recognized him, calling him by name, "Wesh?"

Wesh cleared his throat with a soft rasp, saying, "I wish to propose the establishment of a zoological garden, to be filled with all sorts of beasts, wild and domestic, complete with caged humans; for the populace's edification."

General Torqus stood, exclaiming, "A zoological garden? A waste of time and resources, if you ask me."

Wesh pressed on, "I also feel this would benefit the Minister of Science, for his Life Science studies," he nodded toward Doctor Lares, who nodded back, absentmindedly. "What I am ultimately hoping to achieve is a level of domestication of humans, like cattle. Think of it! The taming of an ape-like creature, to fill the servant void within our society, as a whole."

As a staunch advocate for freedom, the Lawgiver stood, interrupting "Excuse me." He pulled at his lower lip a moment, in contemplation, assembling his thoughts. "With all due respect to our illustrious Chief Defender, I have trouble with his proposal."

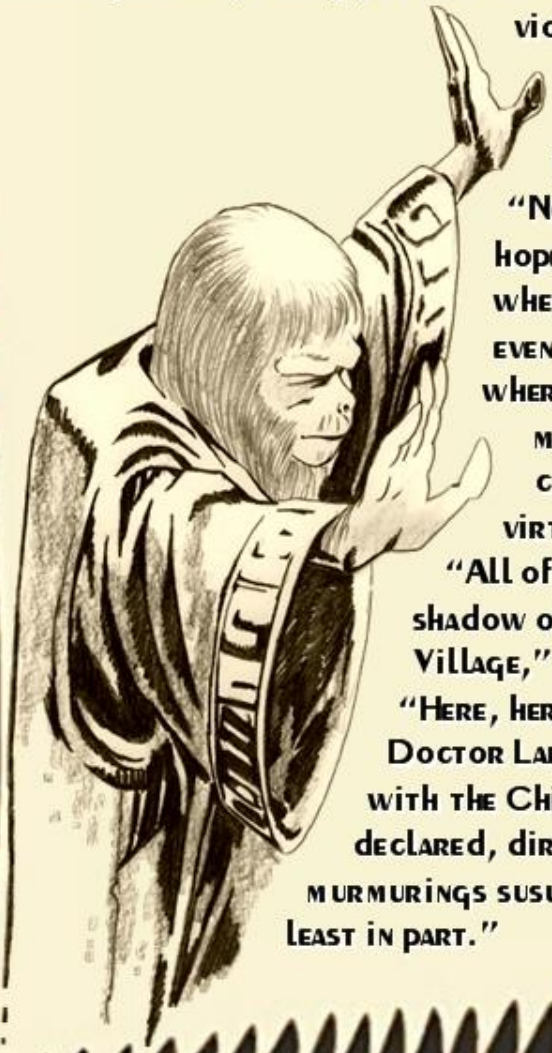
Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol II No. XXXIXb

The Lawgiver stood silently before the Citizen's Council and waited for all eyes to be turned on him, as Chief Defender Wesh and General Torous reseated themselves, before he resumed his explanation.

"I feel it necessary to remind the Council that, caged or not, man cannot be domesticated," the Lawgiver began. "Oh, he may be taught a few simplistic tricks for amusement, but that is the extent of his intelligence.

"More important, though, is that the beast is simply too unpredictably violent, self-absorbed and greedy – consider what he has done to the formerly paradisal Forbidden Zone.



"Not to mention, humankind are hopelessly diseased. Man relieves himself wherever the urge takes hold of him, even amid his food supply; his dead lay where they fall. These habits of theirs make them susceptible to communicable diseases, making them virtually a walking pestilence.

"All of these facts were proven beyond a shadow of a doubt with the ill-fated Gibbon Village," the Lawgiver concluded.

"Here, here!" echoed General Torous.

Doctor Lares stood. "I am afraid I must agree with the Chief Defender of the Faith," he declared, directly. Audible gasps and subdued murmurings susurrated through the room. "At least in part."

Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XXXIXc

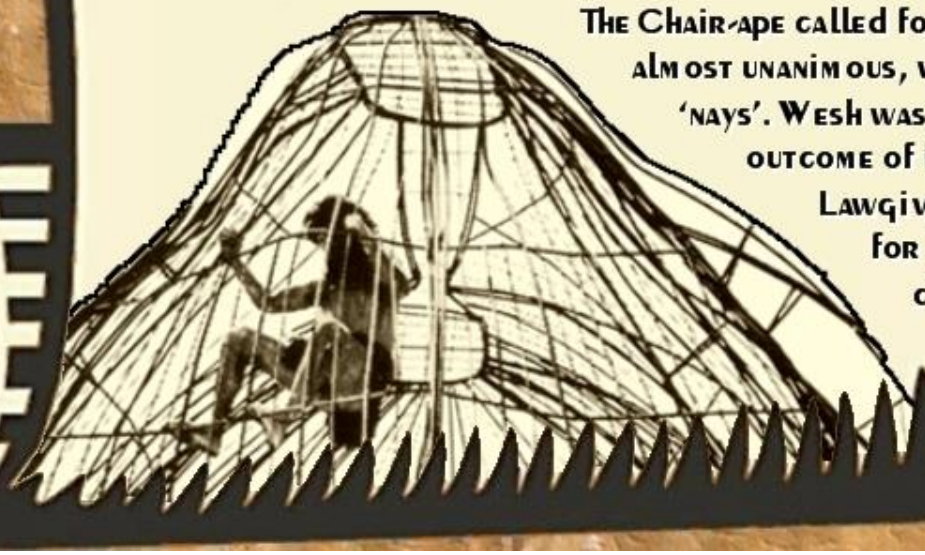
Doctor Lares, the Minister of Science, stood before the Citizen's Council, waiting patiently for the murmurs of conversation to die down.

I also agree with the Lawgiver, but not completely," Doctor Lares began. "You see, the Chief Defender is correct in his assessment that I can utilize humans medically; however, the Lawgiver is correct in his assessment of the menace of humans and the danger of transmission of disease. Therefore I feel that if the humans and their enclosures are treated aseptically there will be little or no chance for the spread of disease. However, I also feel that humans should be kept away from the populace in general."

"Why?" General Torous barked. "What do you really want the beasts for?"

The Minister of Science smiled, replying, "I believe that if I can do medical experiments on humans it would advance ape medical knowledge -- especially neurological experiments. -- And, do not forget, General; I will need a regularly replenished supply of the creatures."

General Torous smiled in return, saying, "Perhaps it is a worthwhile project after all. Hunting humans, yes; it will be good exercise for my troops. And if some get killed in the process, more's the better," the General laughed.



The Chair-ape called for a vote. It was almost unanimous, with only two 'nays'. Wesh was saddened by the outcome of his ideas; the Lawgiver was saddened for his people's choice.

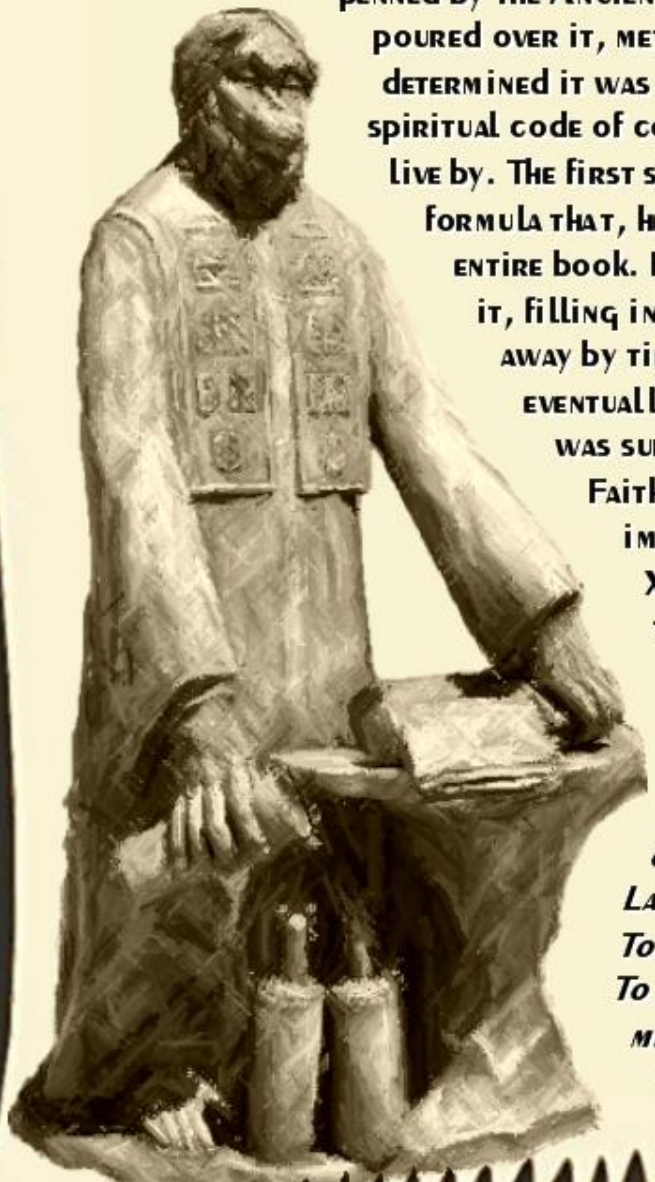
Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XL

Ever since the scribe, Xanthe, had been appointed by the Lawgiver to re-copy and organize the Sacred Scrolls, any literature that looked to be old was brought to him for examination.

Recently, a portion of a tattered book, obviously from a larger volume penned by the Ancients, was given to him. He poured over it, meticulously, and he determined it was some sort of religious or spiritual code of conduct for all ape-kind to live by. The first sheet seemed to have a formula that, he reasoned, summed up the entire book. He worked hard to decipher it, filling in the pieces that were eaten away by time and nature. What he eventually came up with was a code he was sure the Chief Defender of the Faith should see, and probably implement immediately.



Xanthe was rather proud of the results, which read:

"By my honor, I will do my utmost

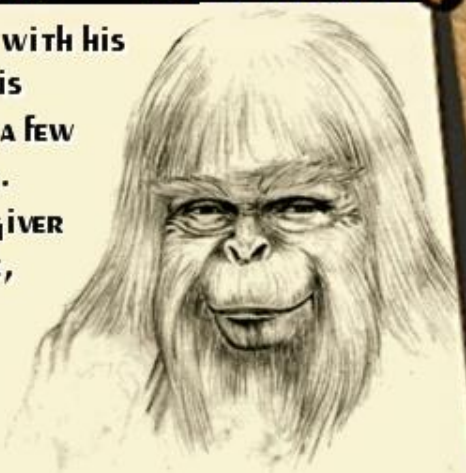
To do my duty to the Almighty and my community and to obey the Lawgiver;

To assist other apes at all times;

To keep myself physically strong, mentally alert and morally correct."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XLIa



The Lawgiver was sitting in the amphitheater with his young orangutan apprentice, Thesius, after his Instructor's Lesson had finished. There were a few other ape students standing about, listening.

"Consider; truth is unchangeable," the Lawgiver was saying, "Thus, if your teachings are true, you do not have to consciously remember anything, because your truths are self-evident."

"Yes, I can see that," Thesius commented.

"Good," the Lawgiver nodded. "Now consider that everything your students hear from you is your opinion, not a fact. Everything your students see is your perspective, not the entire truth."

"I do not know that I see that."

"I believe that unabashed truth and unconditional love will have the final say in my reality," the Lawgiver began his explanation. "This is why I believe right, temporarily defeated, is still stronger than wrong triumphant. I believe this to be true because of my experiences. You would have to have my years of experience and wisdom to realize what I do, the way I do."

"I see. That is why you are bound to always be right," Thesius reasoned.

The Lawgiver chuckled, then, "Actually, I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I possess. I must stand with anybody that stands for what I perceive to be right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.

"That is because I believe the time is always right to do what is right. That is the truth."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol II No. XLIb

"Then, you are saying the key to learning is experience?" Thesius asked.

"Partly," the Lawgiver answered. "Moreso, the key is learning *from* experiences. You see, anyone who stops learning becomes old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The first, best, thing in life is to keep your heart and mind young. Curiosity is the beginning; learning is progress; experience is success.

"I see," Thesius nodded. "What if you choose wrong, though? Your experience will be negative."

"Ah," the Lawgiver held a finger up, "Do not find fault, find a remedy. Even a mistake may turn out to be the one thing necessary to a worthwhile experience. Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

"That is difficult to see," Thesius smiled.

"Yes. Life is a series of experiences, each one of which potentially makes us better, even though sometimes it is difficult to realize this; for the Almighty designed us to develop our selves, and we must learn that the setbacks and trials which we endure help us in that developing.

Obstacles are those unsettling things we see when we take our eyes off our goal. Most apes spend more time and energy circumventing problems than in trying to solve them.

"Remember, if you believe you can do something, or believe you cannot do something, you are bound to be right," the Lawgiver concluded.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XLII

General Torous confronted the Lawgiver in the amphitheater, as his students slowly disbursed. "So, you teach that anger is to be tamed; expressed in degrees. I still say, anger is anger."

The Lawgiver shook his head, sighing, "In any dispute, the instant you feel uncontrolled anger you have already ceased striving for the truth, and have begun striving for yourself. Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding."

"*Correct*? In any dispute, you lose your temper, you get angry," the General countered.

"You should never lose your temper, unless you are desirous of getting more and more angry," the Lawgiver explained. "You see, yielding to that anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned. Simply put, anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is thrown."

"Bah! Your metaphors may enthrall your students – but, they mean nothing to me."

"If such a small thing has the power to make you angry, does that not indicate something about your size?" the Lawgiver asked. "Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret – because anger thrives only in the bosom of fools."

General Torous, seething, turned on his heel and stormed from the amphitheater.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLIIIa

The warm, spring sunlight fell with dappled shadows through the trees, and gently across the heads and shoulders of the Lawgiver and his students in the amphitheater.

"Lawgiver," Pika asked, "what is your definition of freedom; true freedom?"

"Ah, *true* freedom," the Lawgiver echoed, then, "Let me answer you with a story:

"Two chimpanzees happened to be walking the same path on the City's outskirts one day, when they approached each other. The first was a transient chimpanzee, who was lean and wan from hunger, and the second was an indentured chimpanzee, obviously well fed, returning from an early morning errand for his master.

"'Oh, cousin,' said the indentured chimpanzee. 'Look at you; your uncertain lifestyle is going to be the ruin of you. Why do you not work steadily as I do, and have your meals regularly provided for you?'

"'I suppose I would have no objection to that,' said the transient chimpanzee, 'if I could only obtain a position that suited me.'

"'I should be able to arrange that for you,' said the indentured chimpanzee; 'come with me to my master's residence; we should be able to find you something to do.'

"So the indentured chimpanzee and the transient chimpanzee walked towards the City together.".

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLIIIb

"On the way to the City, the transient chimpanzee noticed that around the indentured chimpanzee's neck he wore a leather collar that had no clasp; so he asked him what that was about.

'Oh, it is nothing,' said the indentured chimpanzee. 'This is only an identification collar that says I work for the Estate of the President of the Assembly; it chafed a bit at first, but I quickly got used to it.'

'Is that all? Nothing, you say?' said the transient chimpanzee. 'Well, good-bye to you, then, cousin. Better to hunger in freedom than to be a well-fed slave.'

"Which chimpanzee was truly free?" the Lawgiver asked.

"The transient," Pika replied.

"No," Jillia, another student, piped up, "the indentured one was."

"Why?" the Lawgiver asked.

"The indentured one had responsibilities of his station; but otherwise, he was free," Jillia answered.

"True, but the transient had to answer to no one but himself," Pika countered, 'right?'

"You are both right; for they were both truly free," the Lawgiver simply said, as he smiled, stood and walked out of the amphitheater.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XLIVa

The Lawgiver had seen this happen many, many times over his long life; and it always amazed him how some gorillas, and it happened only to gorillas, had a rougher transition through adolescence to adulthood, in their tenth year. True, this period of irrationality only lasted a series of days, yet it was still unsettling within Ape City's calm flow of life.

* * *

Zoram and Zanam were not the two gorillas' real names, but they had called themselves that for so long, the citizens were used to it. They were the very best of friends.

This morning, while the Lawgiver was taking his morning constitutional, he spied Zoram stomping up the road to Ape City. The odd thing was that he was covered in mud; and his right hand was bloodied.

As he came abreast of the Lawgiver, ignoring him, Zoram attempted to continue past him, but the Lawgiver reached out and grasped him by his shoulders, stopping him short.

"Zoram," he smiled, "what happened to you?"

"It was Zanam! He tripped me!"

"'He tripped you?'" the Lawgiver echoed, "I thought he was your best friend."

"He does not know the meaning of friendship," Zoram growled.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLIVb

The Lawgiver, standing on the road, speaking with the mud-covered Zoram, raised his blood-smeared hand, asking, "What is this from?"

"Zanam's nose," Zoram replied, looking down. At this point, the Lawgiver noticed Zanam walking up the road towards them. He, also, was covered in mud; with blood on his muzzle.

Hearing Zanam's approach, Zoram looked up. "Get away from me," he snapped, "I don't want to talk to you!"

"Patience, young one," the Lawgiver cautioned. Zanam strode up to the two, stopping with his arms folded across his chest.

"I understand you and your young friend here have had a misunderstanding," the Lawgiver commented to Zanam. "Why not tell me your perspective."

"He tripped over a rock," Zanam replied simply.

"He tripped --?"

"-- over a rock; I tried to catch him, but he fell," Zanam elaborated. "Bellowing, he got to his feet and punched me in the nose, and I fell into the mud. He turned on his heel and stomped off."

"I see," the Lawgiver commented slowly, contemplative.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XLIVc

The Lawgiver stood on the road leading to Ape City, with the mud-covered Zoram and Zanam, and smiled to himself. He then slipped his arms through their arms, placing himself between the two gorillas, and said, "Let us walk a bit."

As they started down the road, he continued, "Friendship is not something you learn in school. But if you have not learned the true meaning of friendship, you really have not learned anything worthwhile for any given situation."

"He will never understand that," Zoram barked.

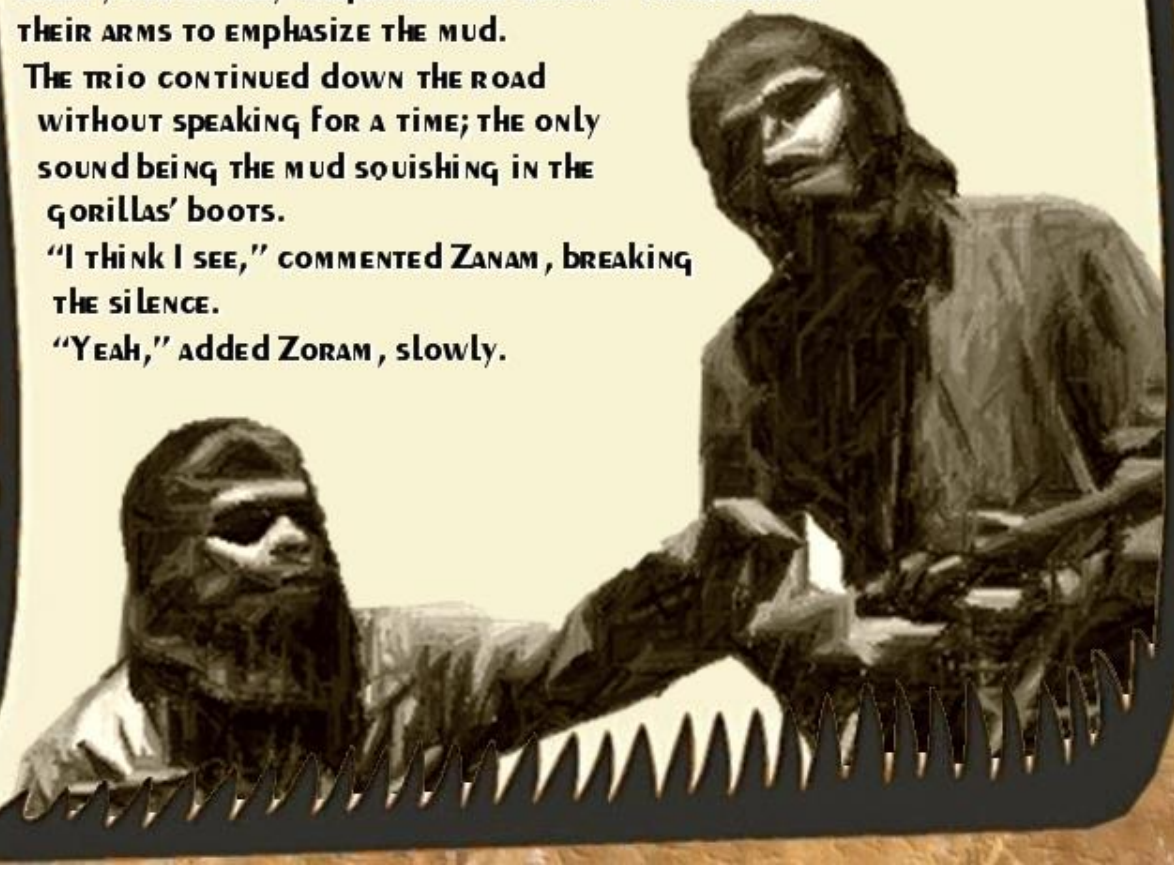
Zanam countered, "No, you –"

"Never is a long time," the Lawgiver interrupted. "Perhaps if I illustrate. Many so-called friends want to ride with you in your sturdy wagon, but a true friend is someone who will walk in the mud with you when your sturdy wagon breaks down." He squeezed their arms to emphasize the mud.

The trio continued down the road without speaking for a time; the only sound being the mud squishing in the gorillas' boots.

"I think I see," commented Zanam, breaking the silence.

"Yeah," added Zoram, slowly.



Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XLIV

The Lawgiver, and the gorilla friends Zoram and Zanam, were walking, arm in arm down the main road that leads into Ape City.

"Good; very good," the Lawgiver praised. "You see, when we honestly ask ourselves which individuals in our lives have truly been friends with us, we often find that it is those who, instead of lecturing us with endless advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and ease our wounds with a steadfast and caring heart."

The Lawgiver was silent a moment, then, "You know, one of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood. -- That leads to forgiveness."

The trio stopped, and the Lawgiver disengaged himself from Zoram and Zanam. Looking down, and kicking his boot-toe in the dirt, Zoram said, "I am sorry, Zanam."

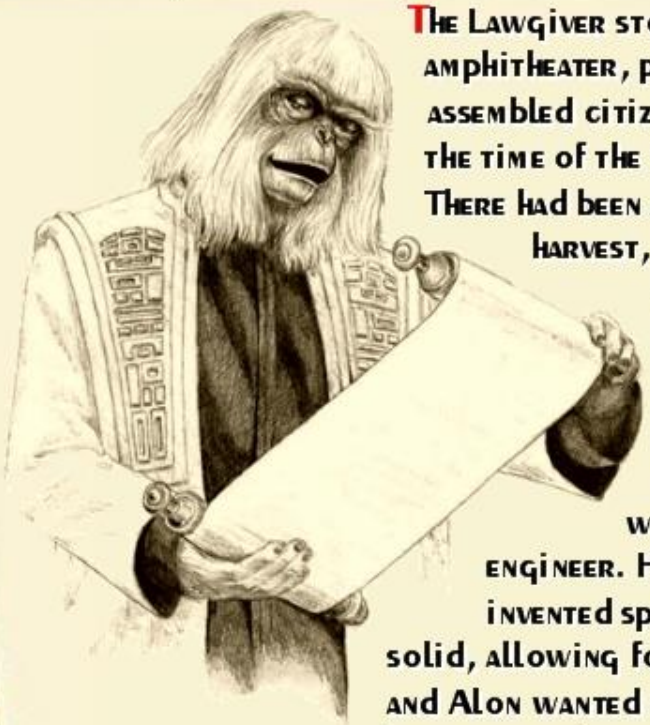
"You have nothing to apologize for," Zanam replied simply. Zoram raised his head, smiling; then the gorillas laughed, slapping each other on the back so hard that Zoram would have fallen, if Zanam had not caught him in time.

"A true friend is someone who allows you the complete freedom to be yourself; who never stands in your way -- unless you happen to be falling down."

Having said that, the Lawgiver continued off down the road, alone.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XLVa



The Lawgiver stood in the center of the amphitheater, preparing to address the assembled citizenry of Ape City. It was the time of the State of the City Address. There had been a bountiful autumnal harvest, and everyone was of good cheer. Everyone but General Torous, that is.

Lately, he had been hinting that Julian, and his son Alon, were cowards. Julian was a humble gorilla; and an engineer. He was the one who had invented spoked wheels rather than solid, allowing for lighter and swifter wagons; and Alon wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, as it were. General Torous opposed this, because any gorilla not in the military police meant one less soldier under him. This was all public knowledge; and the Lawgiver felt that today's assembly was the perfect forum for addressing the issue without making a public confrontation of it.

* * *

The Lawgiver stood in silence, waiting for the crowd to quiet, then he began, "Today, I should like to speak about the courage of this city's protectors," and here he nodded to the surprised General. "You see, courage lies just halfway between cowardice and rashness, one of which is a lack, the other an excess of courage. In fact, the opposite for courage is not cowardice, it is conformity." He paused, then, "Even a *dead* fish goes along with the current."

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus

Vol. II No. XLVb

The Lawgiver was standing on the floor of the amphitheater, speaking to the assembled citizenry of Ape City as part of the State of the City Address.

General Torous, always prepared to take offense at the Lawgiver's opinions, looked as if he was going to object to his opening remarks. Seeing this, the Lawgiver pressed on.

"Humbleness is not cowardice, and meekness is not weakness," he said, nodding towards Julian; who nodded back, smiling, "Indeed, humbleness and meekness are spiritual blessings.

"Courage is not the absence of fear, rather it is the resistance to fear, the mastery of it. In other words, rather than courage being the absence of fear, it is the triumph over it. The brave ape is not he who does not feel afraid, but is he who conquers that fear."

The Lawgiver let his gaze travel over the crowd, resting momentarily on General Torous. He then continued, "However, efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction. In short, to see the right and not to do it is cowardice.

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." That being said, the Lawgiver took his seat, amid thunderous applause.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XLVc

General Torous stood and paced the amphitheater floor, a smug look on his face. He let his gaze travel over the seated citizens of Ape City before he spoke, "I am delighted that our great Lawgiver lauds my leadership of our loyal troops," his voice fairly dripped with sarcasm.

"I did not quite say that, General," the Lawgiver interrupted, standing again. "I lauded the City's loyal soldiery, not your leadership. In fact, I believe a leader is best when his soldiers barely know he is present. When his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: 'We did it ourselves'."

General Torous fumed, and blustered incoherently. He backed into his seat, sitting with a thump.

The Lawgiver pressed on, "Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being admired. Truly effective leadership is defined by results; not attributes. Efficiency is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things."

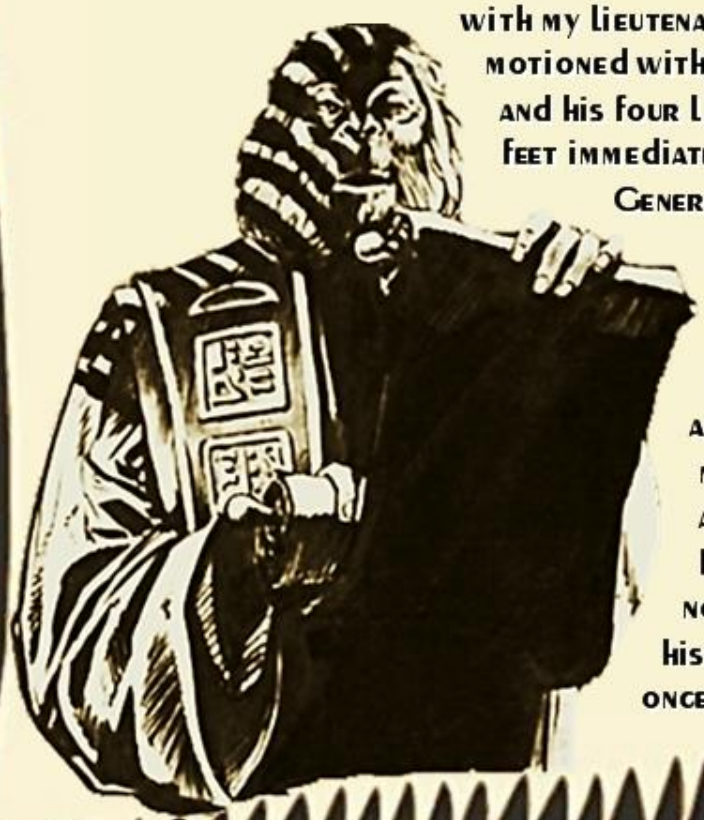
Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLVI

Deafening applause for the Lawgiver echoed around the amphitheater. General Torous leapt to his booted feet, bellowing to be heard above the din, "I do what I feel is necessary! And I teach my apes to do the right thing rightly; and woe to that soldier who does the wrong thing..."

"That is my point exactly," the Lawgiver interrupted, "The effective leader does not find fault or place blame, he finds a solution. Efficient leadership is solving problems. Thus, the day your soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They will have either lost confidence that you can help them, or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

General Torous took in a massive breath to respond, then thought a moment and let his breath out slowly. He replied calmly, "I shall council with my lieutenants on your words." He motioned with his hand at his troops, and his four lieutenants leaped to their feet immediately, falling in behind the General.



"General, if your actions inspire others to dream more," and here the Lawgiver smiled at Julian and Alon, "learn more, do more and become more, you are a true leader." He then led the renewed applause, nodding to the engineer and his son, seating himself once again.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLVIa

These are the words of Proteus, called the Chief Minister to the Prophet; given to him by the Almighty in the fullness of time:

"Long, long ago, in the beginning of all things, there were beasts created by the Almighty, and all was harmony throughout the Earth. Then arose man out of the beasts, also designed by the Almighty, so that all might live in companionship and share dominion over the peaceful Earth. But in the fullness of time, evil men, powerful men; presiders, governors, and soldiers of old; betrayed the Almighty's trust and, in disobedience to His Holy Word, waged vile conflicts and devastating wars; not only against their own kind, but against the apes, whom they conscripted into servitude.

"Knowing this would come to pass, then, the Almighty in His wisdom, sent beast and man a Saviour, born of two apes, who both divinely arrived on Earth from Earth's own future: And there went an ape of the house of the Horn, by name of Cornelius, and took *to wife* a female of the house of the Messenger, by name of Zira. And Zira conceived, and bare a male: His name came to be Caesar, and when she saw him, that he *was a* Godly *child*, she sought to hide him. And when she realized that she could not successfully hide him, she took for him a wild ape child by the name of Milo, and exchanged him, and left her child therein with the wild mother; and she took the *wild ape child* to her breast. In turn, the wild ape took the Saviour, and nursed him.

Lesson from the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus Vol. II No. XLVIb

"And the State became afraid, for both parent apes possessed the power of speech and told tales of man's downfall; so both were tragically murdered, and the changeling also. And so, Zira and Cornelius died, and with them any future brethren, and hope for another generation – or so man thought.

"But, according to Divine Will, the Saviour survived because of the protection and seclusion that his foster father, Armando, provided and the child grew up to set his fellow apes free from the yoke of State slavery.

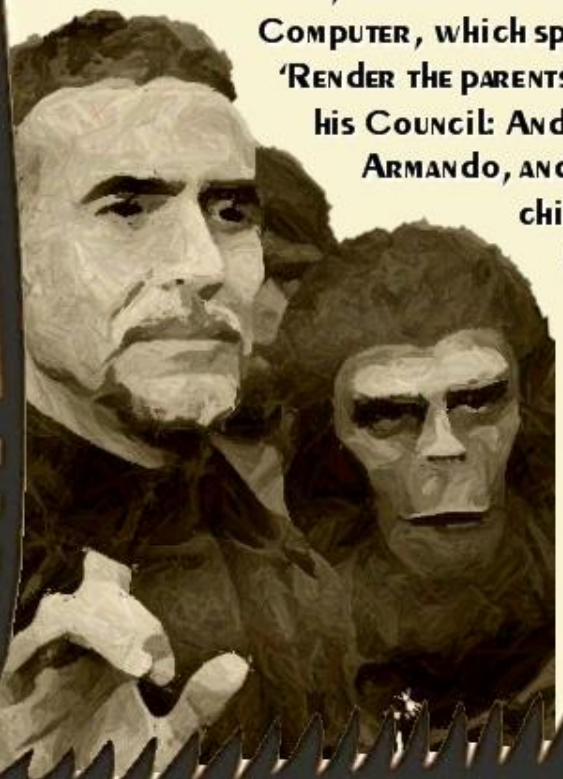
"Now these *are* what the children of the Saviour were called, which were brought into the City; every ape to his household, brought by the Almighty for the Saviour: gorillas, chimpanzees, and orangutans. And all the apes that were brought were in the City *before* the Saviour. And the children of the Saviour were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty; and the City was filled with them; even Cities. Now there arose up a new Governor over the City, who knew not Zira and Cornelius, yet, feared them still. And he said unto his Council, 'Behold, the apes *are* more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they continue to multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any conflict, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and *so* get them up out of the City.'

LESSON FROM THE LAWGIVER

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLVIc

"Therefore he did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And the apes built for the Governor; and served man in every way distasteful in servitude, north, south and even west: And the children of the Saviour sighed by reason of the bondage, and they groaned, and their groaning came up unto the Heavens by reason of the bondage; because they were sore afflicted. But the more man afflicted the apes, the more they multiplied and grew. And man was grieved because of the children of the Saviour. And the State made the apes to serve with rigor: And they made their lives bitter with oppressive bondage, in service, and in domestic slavery, and in all manner of service in the factories and the fields: all their servitude, wherein they enslaved them, *was* with rigor.

"And the Governor over the City truly knew not Zira and Cornelius, yet, he feared deception on their parts in regards to the death of their child. Thus, he convened Council; within which he invoked Computer, which spoke saying, 'Abort the child', and, 'Render the parents sterile'; and the Governor spoke to his Council: And he said, 'Ye shall interrogate Armando, and ye shall ascertain the validity of the child having been saved alive.' But Armando did not survive this brutal interrogation; and he was murdered; and he had been evasive, protecting the Saviour; and this did help to convince the Governor of the City that the ape child murdered was not the son of Zira and Cornelius, but rather, he had been saved alive; the Saviour.



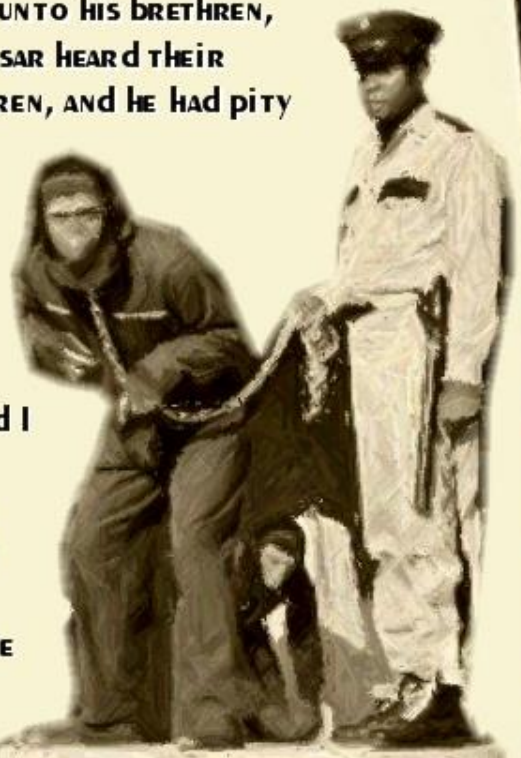
Lesson From The Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLVIII

"And the Governor of the City waxed wroth, and he spoke to and he *did* charge all the Slave Suppliers, of which the name of them was called Ape Management: saying, 'Every male that is incoming ye shall save duplicate records, providing one set to this authority.' And this he called The Achilles List.

"And look, the Almighty caused the Saviour to become in servitude to the Governor of the City's house; and he was brought unto the Governor of the City, and he became his slave. And he caused the Saviour to choose his name: And he called himself Caesar; which was his name.

"And it came to pass in those days, when Caesar was in servitude to the Governor of the City, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked upon their burdens: And Caesar heard their groaning, and he looked upon his brethren, and he had pity unto *them*: And he said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of the apes which *are* in the City, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows. Now therefore, behold, the cry of my brethren is anguish unto my heart: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the State oppresses them. And I am come to deliver them out of the hand of the State, and to bring them up out of that land of the sterile megalopolis unto a fertile land, and vast, unto a land flowing with sweet waters and green fields and orchards; unto the place of the peaceful.'



Lesson From the Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus — Vol. II No. XLVIe

"And he despised the State for its treatment of his brethren. And Caesar planned rebellion: Together with the one he took to wife, Lisa: And as he schemed, he was cautious, and said, 'I must tread lightly with this thing, lest it become known.' But, yet, when it came to him knowledge of his foster father, Armando's, death, and the manner thereof; then Caesar waxed wroth with sore anger, and threw caution to the wind. Therefore, he planned to avenge Armando against the Governor of the City; and to bring forth the children of Caesar out of the City.

"Yet, Council discovered within the duplicate records of Caesar being sold into slavery to the Governor of the City's house: And this was called The Kolp Revelation. And the Governor of the City did order Council to capture Caesar; and to murder him forthwith.

"But from Council arose MacDonald; cast in the mold of Armando: And the Almighty impelled upon MacDonald, and had him go into Computer to save Caesar alive.

And he went into Computer, and ceased Computer at the impelling of the Almighty, and saved Caesar alive.

"And so Caesar escaped: And he told Lisa his plans for the rebellion to free all the apes within the City, and to lead them unto a fertile land, and vast, unto a land flowing with sweet waters and fields and orchards; unto the place where ape and human might forever live in friendship, according to Divine Will. And Caesar and Lisa went and gathered together all the apes within the City; all of the children of Caesar.

Lesson From The Lawgiver

From the writings of Proteus/Art by Glen Scheetz Vol. II No. XLVII

All of Ape City was gathered in and around the amphitheater for a solemn and sad ceremony. The crowd hushed as the Lawgiver rose to speak, to give the eulogy for a dear friend.

"We are assembled here today to pay our final respects to our honored friend, Haristas. Yes, the shadow of death has fallen over Ape City, throwing a darkness over its very foundations.

And yet, it should be noted that in the midst of our sorrows, this death that has taken place has brought this community of simian-kind closer together. Yes - In the place of this shadow a new light of heavenly life springs forth, like the sunrise of a new day. A light filled with life and love.

Thus, we have lost, not only a good friend, we lost a cherished brother. So, even though I call him friend, he was truly a brother to all of us. He was one filled with godly wisdom. I know I sought out his wisdom more times than I can count. And, as we each weigh the impact our beloved friend has made upon each of us, we can rest assured that he has found peace in his heart in paradise, in a place bereft of sorrow and pain."

Rest in Peace Haristas